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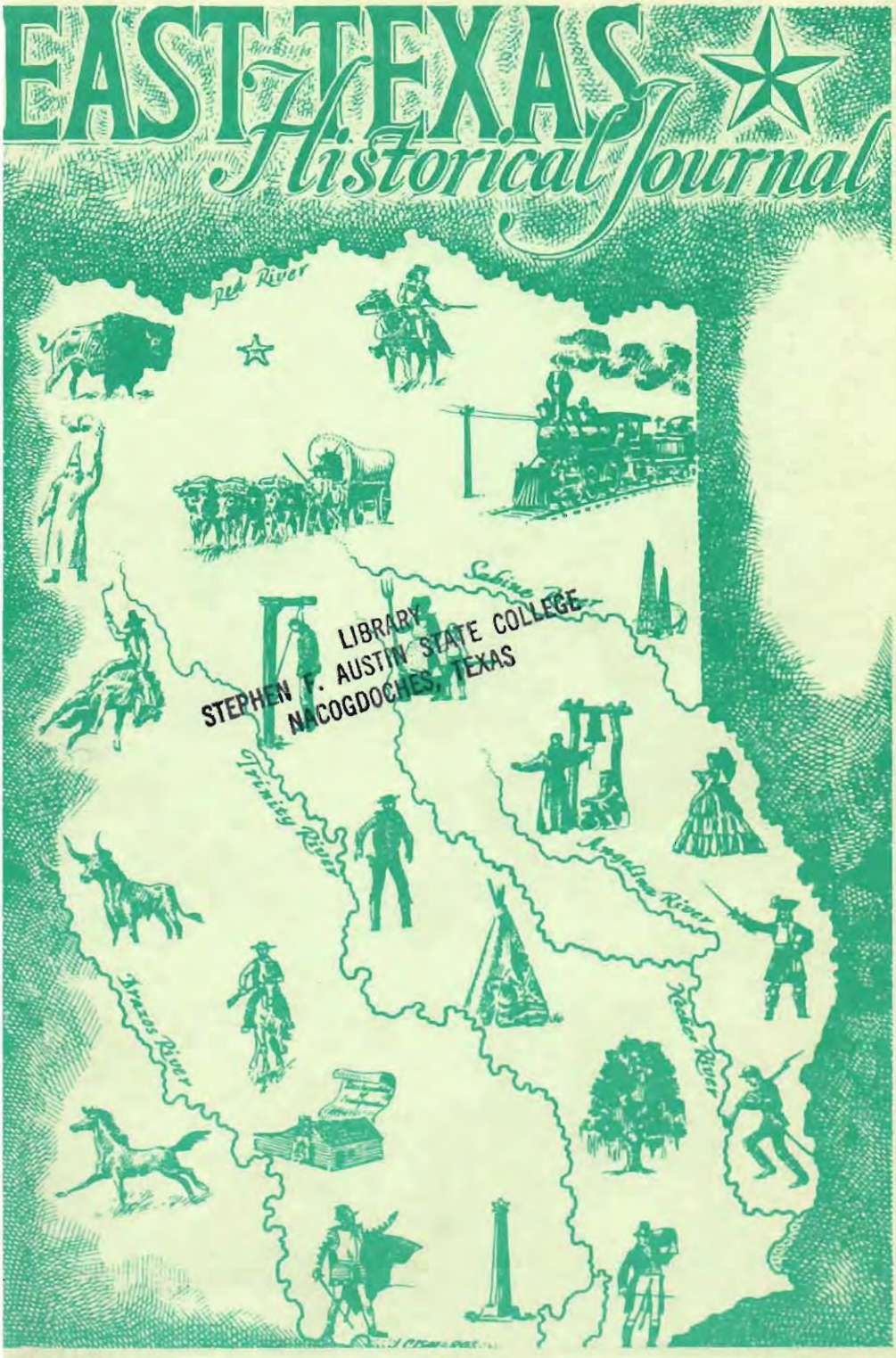

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LA SALLE AND THE HISTORIANS

ERT J. GUM

W. E. Dunn, in 1916, wrote that the story of the Texas expedition of Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, an individual perhaps as well known as any other among the French explorers of North America, had been told in enough places that it needed no repetition, and apologized for another article on the subject.[1] It well may be that the story of La Salle in Texas needs no further investigation, at least as far as the skeletal outline is concerned, but a brief survey of some of the printed material published between 1856 and 1952 reveals that on several points, including some dates, there is little, if any, agreement among historians concerning the La Salle Texas expedition.

The first of the items about which writers disagree is the motive behind La Salle's attempt to establish himself in the southwest, which, for the purposes of this brief paper will be understood to include present day Alabama and Louisiana. The second item on which there is no consensus is the intended location of the proposed colony—both LaSalle's intended location and that location the government desired. Thirdly, the authors here surveyed are in general disagreement as to where La Salle went on two exploring trips. Finally, there is a difference of opinion concerning where he was killed; some recent writers of both monographs and textbooks give an erroneous impression as to the manner in which he met death, while a few have the wrong date for the killing.

Other than authors of textbooks, those here reviewed have utilized the same sources. From the French side the sources have been primarily the Cavalier family papers, the French Marine (naval) archives, and the *Memorial Historique* of Henri Joutel, a member of the expedition to Texas; and from the Spanish side the archives of the Council of the Indies.

Real French interest in the southwest seems to have been sparked by the explorations of Marquette and Joliet in 1673. That interest soon changed into a desire to seize the Mississippi Valley, but for nine years the French in North America took no action to make the desire a reality. Then, in 1682, La Salle journeyed to the Gulf of Mexico and took possession of the territory in the name of His Most Catholic Majesty, Louis XIV. On these bare facts the historians here reviewed are all in agreement, and few current historians will find fault with them. They also all agree on the French "Grand Design" for North America once the government became interested in the southwest.

Troubles in Europe kept early governmental interest in abeyance, if it existed at all, and not until 1683 did the government actively become involved in the Mississippi Valley. The historians here examined are in agreement that government involvement stemmed from a memorial made by La Salle in late December, 1683, following his return to France in October of that year.[2] In his memorial La Salle proposed to establish a settlement on the Gulf of Mexico at the mouth of the Mississippi. Here the agreement of the historians surveyed comes to an abrupt end, with most in disagreement concerning La Salle's designs. Justin Winsor, in his book, *Cartier to Frontenac*, suggests that in addition to other motives La Salle perhaps was motivated by personal greed, for La Barre, the then governor of

Canada, had impoverished him through the seizure of his lands, goods, and frontier establishments.[3] Winsor also holds that early proposals indicate La Salle's interest was in commerce only.[4] However, in later proposals he added the element of conquest in that he proposed to attack New Biscay in the viceroyalty of New Spain and to seize the silver mines in that region.[5] The question, "Why did La Salle not mention his plans for conquest in his first proposal?" immediately rises. Winsor makes no attempt to answer the question, but Francis Parkman in his *La Salle and the Discovery of the Great West* suggests that La Salle was forced to introduce conquest because of his failure to interest the government in a commercial venture. Parkman further holds that La Salle deliberately falsified the geographical relationship of the Red River and New Biscay, which he reported were only fifty leagues apart.[6] He agrees, however, that La Salle may have contemplated conquest at a later date.[7]

Bernard de Voto in his *The Course of Empire* accepts Parkman's view on this point as well as the idea that conquest was added to interest the Sun King,[8] as does E. T. Miller in an article entitled "The Connection of Penalosa with the La Salle Expedition" published in the *Texas Historical Association Quarterly* in October, 1901.[9]

Carlos E. Castaneda, however, in his *The Finding of Texas 1519-1693*, makes little mention of commerce. He holds that the proposal made by La Salle was primarily a military one and hints that he proposed to be a continuing irritant to the Spanish.[10]

It will be recalled that I earlier made the statement that French governmental interest in the Mississippi Valley stemmed from La Salle's proposals beginning in 1683. It should be noted that an earlier proposal for the conquest of New Spain made by Dom Diego Penalosa, a former governor of New Spain, had elicited no response from the French government. This might cast some doubt on Parkman's notion that La Salle introduced conquest to interest Louis XIV if it were not for the fact that war between Spain and France erupted in 1683. Penalosa's proposals closely resembled La Salle's, and our historians can no more agree on Penalosa and his relationship to the Frenchman and his Texas venture than on the motive question.

Parkman gives Penalosa a footnote and suggests he may have affected La Salle's proposals,[11] but evidently feels there was no intimate connection between them. Others, however, give more attention to the problem. Winsor notes there was a "remarkable resemblance" between La Salle's and Penalosa's proposals,[12] while Castaneda flatly asserts that in February, 1684, an attempt was made (by whom he does not say) to join the proposals of the two men.[13] Miller disclaims any tangible connection between the two,[14] while De Voto maintains La Salle was forced to accept Penalosa's proposals.[15] Though there is no agreement on this point, all who mention Penalosa's plans agree on his proposals, which were to raise a force of buccaneers at Santo Domingo, invade New Spain at Panuco late in 1685, and drive to Durango. La Salle, on his part, proposed to raise 15,000 Indian warriors, advance up the Red River, turn to the south to attack New Biscay, join Penalosa and cut northern New Spain off from Mexico City, and perhaps even attack Mexico City itself.[16]

All who handle this question agree that for whatever reason, La Salle obtained his commission and Penalosa faded from the picture. In obtaining his commission

La Salle received four ships, men and equipment, and the governorship of all land between Lake Michigan and the Gulf of Mexico.[17] All agree that command was split at sea with La Salle in command of the route and soldiers, while Captain Beaujeu of the Royal Navy commanded the sailors; such a split in command soon caused friction between the explorer and the sailor.[18]

Part of the friction, according to Winsor, was due to La Salle's resentment of Beaujeu's better judgment, a factor not mentioned by any other. However, both Winsor and Parkman mention La Salle's suspicions of Beaujeu because his wife was a confidant of the Jesuits, whom La Salle felt were responsible for his misfortunes.[19] While none of the other mention it, Parkman insists Beaujeu did his best to get along with La Salle, but La Salle's vile temper made it impossible.[20]

The friction began at La Rochelle, where they outfitted, and continued throughout the voyage. On this facet of the story, Parkman and Winsor are more descriptive than the others. Both record that La Salle refused to take on water at Madeira for fear of the Spanish's gaining knowledge of the expedition.[21] Parkman and Castaneda mention that Beaujeu refused to put in at Port de Paix and sailed on to Petit Goave, which resulted in one of the ship's becoming separated from the others and being captured by the Spanish.[22] Of this incident Winsor merely reports the capture due to the ship being separated from the others by a storm.[23]

All agree that La Salle was ill at Santo Domingo. Winsor and Castaneda suggest that his illness accounts for many desertions to buccaneers anchored there.[24] They all agree that not until late November could La Salle move out, now short one ship, and that he moved from Beaujeu's ship to the next largest one. Parkman claims that the reason for the move was that Aigron, Captain of the ship to which La Salle moved, threatened to quit the expedition due to La Salle's foul temper.[25]

From this point the writers here surveyed shift their emphasis to the question of where the little fleet went after leaving Santo Domingo and why. Parkman, on this point, claims no person aboard La Salle's fleet knew the Gulf of Mexico, even though he had recruited some fifty pirates while at Petit Goave. He insists La Salle and Beaujeu had been misled by reports of the strength of the currents in the Gulf of Mexico and as a result sailed too far to the west.[26] Both Parkman and Winsor make the claim that when they sighted land on 28 December, 1684, La Salle and Beaujeu thought they had reached the northwest Florida coast and were in Appalachee Bay.[27] Winsor reports they were probably at Atchafalaya Bay, and Parkman ventures no guess.[28]

A dense fog settled on 30 December and lay on the water until well after 1 January, 1685, and when it lifted revealed that Beaujeu's ship was not in sight. Parkman reports that on 1 January, La Salle went to explore the coastline with a pilot, and in the dense fog found only marshes.[29]

Castaneda dates this event as 10 January, and reports La Salle asserted he was too far east to be even near the Mississippi. In Castenada's opinion, La Salle was at the mouth of the Mississippi. Further, he believes La Salle probably knew where he was but would not admit it, and deliberately went past the river.[30] While Parkman asserts La Salle went ashore with the pilot, Castenada claims he did not and that he ignored the pilot's report that he thought a river was there. Both Parkman and Castaneda report the north latitudinal location as approxi-

mately 29°, the approximate latitude of the Louisiana coast. Parkman claims La Salle did not know the longitude of the river[31] which, until 1770 and the invention of the chronometer, could not be determined.

Winsor and Parkman report that on 1 January, 1685, La Salle was probably at the mouth of the Sabine River, and that on 6 January, while looking for Beaujeu and his ship, which had become separated in the dense fog of 31 December and 1 January, he probably discovered Galveston Bay.[32] Thus, between these historians there is no agreement except that he was off the southern coast of North America and in the Gulf of Mexico. It is evident that they even disagree on dates, though Winsor and Parkman generally agree; Castaneda, however, seems a bit careless on this point. Winsor further does not accept the notion that La Salle deliberately overshot the Mississippi,[33] but De Voto holds that missing the Mississippi was a part of the concessions to the government made by La Salle to obtain his commission to establish a settlement.[34] Only one thing is certain—he did not sail into or enter in any way the Mississippi River. From the foregoing, one might ask "what was his real intention," and our historians have.

Winsor contends that the documents indicate La Salle intended to establish his settlement some sixty leagues up the Mississippi. Castaneda claims he intended to settle sixty leagues down the coast (west) from that river, though he reports that La Salle proposed to Louis XIV to settle at the mouth of the river. Miller maintains the settlement was to be up the river toward Fort St. Louis on the Illinois.[35]

At any rate, they all agree La Salle spent most of the month of January, partly with Beaujeu with whom he made contact accidentally, exploring the Texas Coast and looking for his "fatal river." They are in agreement that finally, near mid-February, 1685, he decided to put his followers ashore at Matagorda Bay under the claim that it was the Mississippi. Only Parkman stoutly defends the position that La Salle thought he was on the Mississippi[36] and admits that La Salle finally accepted the fact he was not on his river only after making a brief exploration upon going ashore.[37] Winsor reports that La Salle wrote the Marquis de Seignelay that he was on the west mouth of the Mississippi and believed the main channel to be twenty to thirty leagues east, but soon gave up the notion and decided to establish a permanent camp from which to search for the river.[38] If La Salle thought he was on the west mouth, why did he not take one of his two remaining ships (one had been lost in going ashore) and search for it? Or why not simply return to Santo Domingo if De Voto is correct in his assertion that La Salle wanted to give up before landfall had been made?[39]

All agree on the location of the camp site as being on the Garcitas River—except Parkman, who contends it was on the La Vaca River, so named from the number of buffalo grazing its banks.[40] The establishment of a fort is handled rather cursorily by all, the story varying only in the amount of detail recorded. In this area Parkman gives the most information, while Castaneda and Winsor are equally terse. At this point all are in agreement except Henderson Yoakum,[41] that La Salle knew he was not on his river and planned to explore to find it, but could not leave his little band before October, 1685. They agree he left on 30 October, but on nothing else. Winsor reports it was an aimless march, lasting six months, netting nothing,[42] though he does report La Salle said he had found the Mississippi and left six men in a palisade on it. They were never heard of again. Neither Fr. Charlevoix in his *Journal of a Voyage to North America*, nor N. Maynard Crouse

in his study of d'Iberville make mention of finding such an outpost. Winsor apparently believes that on this trip La Salle probably journeyed to the north and east. Parkman asserts La Salle went south to Matagorda Bay and then turned eastward. He then gives details of existence at La Salle's small fort and brings him back at the end of March, 1686, without having found the river.[43] He reports that La Salle claimed he had met Indians who knew the Spanish and told him it would be easy to cross the Rio Grande. Here the palisade story is told, also.[44] Castaneda reiterates the story of his having met Indians who knew the Spaniards, and asserts that to have done so La Salle would perforce have been in present west Texas or perhaps even in New Mexico. He believes the explorer probably reached the Rio Grande.[45]

Having had no success, in mid-April, 1686, La Salle left again. All agree that he traveled in an easterly direction, though they only guess at how far east he advanced. Parkman says La Salle probably reached the Sabine. How far north he went also is conjecture, the only evidence resting in the fact that he did meet the Cenis, or Tejas, Indians and obtained from them a few horses.[46] Castaneda claims the Trinity as the major river reached, and has La Salle perhaps fifty miles south of Nacogdoches.[47] Hampered by weather, illness, and a shortage of powder he returned to his fort in August only to learn of the loss of his one remaining ship.[48] After a bout with "illness" and hernia he determined to go to the Illinois country for succor, and left early in January.

Parkman has him leaving on his last trip on the morrow of 12th night, 7 January, 1687,[49] while Castaneda has him departing on 12 January, 1687.[50] All agree that he took a northeasterly route and that movement was slow due to heavy rains and swollen rivers. They give no details of this journey until the time of his murder, the date and place of which is in dispute. Winsor simply puts the time as mid-March;[51] Parkman and Yoakum set the day as 19 March, 1687,[52] while Castaneda places the date as 20 March.[53] Winsor places the spot of the killing on the Trinity[54]; Parkman near the Trinity,[55] and Castaneda the Navasota.[56]

Textbook authors have done even worse by the story than those who have researched it. By no means have I surveyed all textbooks on American history, but I have taken a few samplings.

Oliver Perry Chitwood in his *History of Colonial America* has a brief paragraph on the Texas venture, but La Salle does not appear in the index of the second edition of this work.[57] Curtis P. Nettles in his *The Roots of American Life*, 2nd edition, simply states that La Salle, in 1684, lost his life while attempting to establish a settlement on the Mississippi and capture the southern fur trade, with the possibility of an attack on New Spain thrown in.[58] Note that Nettles has La Salle killed before he reached the coast. Ray Allen Billington in his *Westward Expansion* only states that La Salle intended to settle on the Mississippi, missed it, and that his followers rebelled and killed him,[59] which is in error. Incidentally, De Voto's account of La Salle's murder is suspiciously like Billington's, and De Voto has his death occurring in 1689.[60]

Survey texts are worse yet. John D. Hicks, George Mowry, and Robert Burke in their *The Federal Union*, latest edition, give the Texas attempt a couple of lines and use Nettles' date, 1684, for the murder.[61] Harry Carman, Harold Syrett, and Bernard Wishy in their *A History of the American People*, Vol. I, 2nd ed., make no mention of the great Frenchman in their section on exploration and set-

tlement or in the section on French and British rivalry in North America.[62] La Salle suffers the same fate at the hands of Ralph Harlow and Nelson Blake in their *The United States*, 3rd ed., revised.[63]

I believe enough areas of disagreement have been suggested to indicate that Dunn, when he apologized in 1916 for publishing another article on La Salle's Texas venture, was mistaken in thinking the facts were then well enough known. It is an area in which the definitive work has not yet been written, and perhaps it cannot be; but it certainly warrants further investigation.

FOOTNOTES

[1]William E. Dunn, "The Spanish Search for La Salle's Colony on the Bay of Espiritu Santo, 1685-1689," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 19, No. 4, (1916), 323.

[2]Justin Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*. (Boston & New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1894), 308. Hereafter cited as Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*.

[3]*Ibid.*, 310.

[4]*Ibid.*, 297.

[5]*Ibid.*, 309.

[6]Francis Parkman, *La Salle and the Discovery of the Great West*. (Boston: Little Brown & Co., 1899), 345-349. Hereafter cited as Parkman, *La Salle*.

[7]*Ibid.*

[8]Bernard De Voto, *The Course of Empire*. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The Riverside Press, 1952), 137. Hereafter cited as De Voto, *Empire*.

[9]E. T. Miller, "The Connection of Penalosa with the La Salle Expedition," *Texas Historical Association Quarterly*, Vol. 5, No. 2, 1901, 97-109. Hereafter cited as Miller, "Penalosa."

[10]Carlos E. Castaneda, *The Finding of Texas, 1519-1693*, "Our Catholic Heritage in Texas" Series. (Austin: Von Boeckmann Jones Co., 1936), 282. Hereafter cited as Castaneda, *Finding Texas*.

[11]Parkman, *La Salle*, 350.

[12]Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 309.

[13]Castaneda, *Finding Texas*, 282-283.

[14]Miller, "Penalosa," 97-109.

[15]DeVoto, *Empire*, 137.

[16]Castaneda, *Finding Texas*, 281; 282-283; Parkman, *La Salle*, 345-349.

[17]Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 310.

[18]Castaneda, *Finding Texas*, 285; Parkman, *La Salle*, 358.

[19]Parkman, *La Salle*, 354; Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 311.

[20]Parkman, *La Salle*, 354.

[21]Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 310, 312; Parkman, *La Salle*, 366-367.

[22]Parkman, *La Salle*, 368, Castaneda, *Finding Texas*, 285.

[23]Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 312.

[24]*Ibid.*

[25]Parkman, *La Salle*, 372.

[26]*Ibid.*, 373.

[27]Parkman, *La Salle*, 373; Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 312.

[28]*Ibid; Ibid.*

[29]Parkman, *La Salle*, 373.

[30]Castaneda, *Finding Texas*, 286.

[31]*Ibid.*, 286, 287.

[32]Parkman, *La Salle*, 374.

[33]Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 312-313.

[34]De Voto, *Empire*, 137.

[35]Castaneda, *Finding Texas*, 282, 287; Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 282, 309; Miller, "Penalosa," 99.

[36]Parkman, *La Salle*, 376-377; 378-379.

[37]*Ibid.*, 388-389.

[38]Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 316-317.

[39]De Voto, *Empire*, 138.

[40]Parkman, *La Salle*, 392.

[41]Henderson Yoakum, *History of Texas From its First Settlement in 1685 to its Annexation to the United States in 1846.* (New York: Redfield, 1856), 22. Hereafter cited as Yoakum, *Texas.*

[42]Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 318, 319, 320.

[43]Parkman, *La Salle*, 396-402.

[44]*Ibid.*, 403.

[45]Castaneda, *Finding Texas*, 292-293.

[46]Parkman, *La Salle*, 405-406; 411-417.

[47]Castaneda, *Finding Texas*, 294-295.

[48]*Ibid.*, 293.

[49]Parkman, *La Salle*, 417.

[50]Castaneda, *Finding Texas*, 296-297.

[51]Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 321.

[52]Parkman, *La Salle*, 426-429; Yoakum, *Texas*, 40.

[53]Castaneda, *Finding Texas*, 296-297.

[54]Winsor, *Cartier to Frontenac*, 321.

[55]Parkman, *La Salle*, 426-429.

[56]Castaneda, *Finding Texas*, 296-297.

[57]Oliver Perry Chitwood, *A History of Colonial America*. (2nd ed., New York: Harper & Brothers, 1948), 372.

[58]Curtis P. Nettles, *The Roots of American Life*. (2nd ed., New York: Appleton-Century-Crofts, 1963), 368.

[59]Ray Allen Billington, *Westward Expansion: A History of the American Frontier*. (3rd ed., New York: Macmillan Co., 1967), 432-33.

[60]De Voto, *Empire*, 138.

[61]John D. Hicks, et. al., *The Frederick Union*. (4th ed., Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1964), 136.

[62]Harry J. Carman, et. al., *A History of the American People*, Vol. I. (2nd ed., New York: Alfred Knopf, 1960), 1-50; 71-75.

[63]Ralph Volney Harlow, *The United States: From Wilderness to World Power*. (3rd ed., Rev. by Nelson Blake, New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1957), 1-17; 63-67.

COAL MINES OF GARRISON

B. J. Fett

Those people who recall the workings and operations of the coal mines which existed throughout East Texas until the turn of the last century are found few and far between. Coal mining as an industry in East Texas is today one of the past, having reached its decline in 1928. Because the resource of coal is not in demand in the present day, the actual existence of the mineral and one-time operation of the mines is a fact not realized by much of today's population.

Quantities of coal have been mined at different times from the East Texas counties of Anderson, Bowie, Camp, Cass, Freestone, Harrison, Henderson, Hopkins, Leon, Nacogdoches, Panola, Rains, Robertson, Shelby, Titus, Van Zandt and Wood.[1] The coal taken from these areas is known as lignite. Lignite, a low grade of coal, is the third best coal to burn, falling behind anthricite and bituminous, yet being of a higher grade than peat. Lignite is an early stage of coal formation and usually contains some definite plant matter. It is "classified by total moisture, which is related to calorific value and yield of low-temperature tar which indicates value of lignite for chemical processing."[2] Much of the lignite in East Texas is found in veins too thin to mine (seams should be five feet thick or greater) or is of too low grade to be mined at profit.

The coal resources of East Texas have been recognized and even mined on a limited scale far back into the 19th century. It was reported that as "early as 1819, when L. F. L'Heriter indicated a mine, *du charbon de terre,* in East Texas on a map accompanying a report, *'Le Champ D'Asile, tableau photographique et historique du Texas'*, which was published in Paris, France."[3] There are other reports of small amounts of mining which were done in the 1850's on a local scale. The first actual production list was published for Texas in 1884, however, when approximately one hundred twenty-five thousand tons of coal were produced.[4] This figure increased constantly, reaching its peak in 1913 just prior to World War I, when 2,429,920 tons of coal were produced, and only 1,200,000 tons of this coal was lignite.[5] Coal production dropped sharply during the war, never to reach such a production peak again. 1928 was the last year that Texas was to produce over one million tons of lignite.[6]

The coal mining industry in the vicinity of Nacogdoches was first established in Northeastern Nacogdoches County and Northwestern Shelby County at the turn of the century. Mineral analyses taken of the lignite in the specific area of Northwestern Shelby County have shown it to be of an excellent quality.[7] The samples were taken from an outcrop on the W. J. Crumply headrights, approximately seven miles south of Timpson, and from the Timpson Coal Company, one mile south of Timpson. Although taken from only one limited area of East Texas, the analyses provide a general knowledge of chemical breakdown of all East Texas coal.

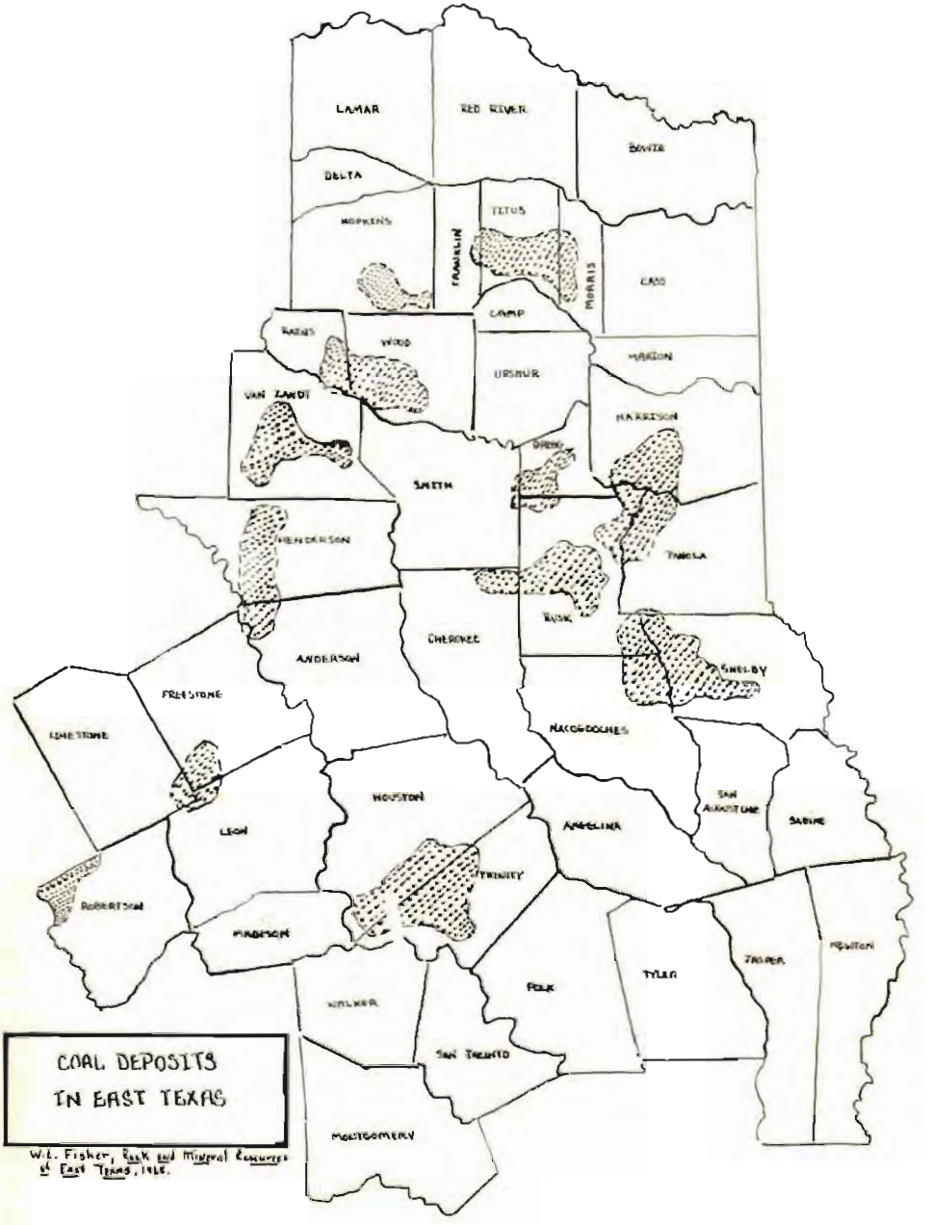
The analysis breakdown reads as follows:

	Timpson Mine[8]	Outcrop[9]
Moisture	31.96	18.26
Volatile Matter	39.53	43.51
Fixed Carbon	23.05	29.53
Ash	5.46	8.70
Sulphur	1.46	2.46
B.T.U.	80.53	—

Coaling mining as an industry for Garrison, Texas, in Nacogdoches County, began in 1896 with the Acme Coal Company and Union Coal Co. obtaining mineral leases around Garrison. The Union Coal Company financed by W. P. Calloway, H. W. Downey, and J. B. Fears of Nacogdoches County obtained a number of mineral leases beginning in February, 1896. The leases were all similar and would all pay two cents per ton of coal that goes over a one and one-half inch grate.[10] On April 10, 1896, the company owners sold one-fourth interest in the company to Percy Allen for five hundred dollars and transferred operating responsibility to Percy Allen.[11] The company, under a Louisiana Charter, had its office and place of business in Houston, with Sam Allen as President, Percy Allen as Secretary, and H. W. Downey as Treasurer.[12] The Union Coal Company renamed the East Texas Coal Company then sold all its privileges, franchises, equipment, shafts, and all property which was completely free from debt to Emmettee A. Ellis of Fort Bend County, Texas, on January 8, 1897, for $2500. This mine started production in 1900 and ran until 1902 when the Spindletop Oil Field came in near Beaumont forcing both mines at Garrison to close. During this time, the East Texas Coal Company produced a splendid quality of lignite coal which was used successfully on stationary engines and railroads. The East Texas Coal Company had two shafts which were about fifty-four feet deep and had an average thickness of at least five feet of lignite.

The Acme Coal Company began obtaining mineral leases through J. A. Roosevelt after Union Coal Company opened. Roosevelt transferred all his leases to Acme Coal Company on September 10, 1896.[14] All the leases were similar and gave the lessor two cents for every ton of coal that passed over one and one-half inch screen.[15] This company was made up of W. P. Calloway of Garrison and J. A. Roosevelt and Frank Brown, Jr., of Austin.[16] The Acme Coal Company, on October 24, 1896, sold all its leases to the South Texas Coal and Oil Company for two thousand dollars cash.[17] This company, with its main offices in Houston, worked the mine until about 1902 when it was forced to close down, as was the East Texas Coal Company. Both the South Texas Coal and Oil Company and East Texas Coal Company mined approximately seven acres of coal each during their operation from around 1900 to about 1902.[20]

During this period another coal company called the Texas Coal and Coking Company had a short existence. It began in the summer of 1897 when A. Sampson obtained a number of leases from around Garrison and sold them to the Texas Coal and Coking Company for one hundred shares of capital stock, par value of which was ten thousand dollars. The company also assumed three promissory notes executed by Norman G. Keiltner to E. B. Fisher for $212.50, and two to J. J. Lewis and wife for $219.[21]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GREGG
HENDERSON
PANOLA
RUSK
ANDERSON
CHEROKEE
SHELBY
FREESTONE
NACOGDOCHES
LIMESTONE
HOUSTON
SAN AUGUSTINE
SABINE
LEON
ANGELINA
ROBERTSON
TRINITY
MADISON
TYLER
JASPER
NEWTON
WALKER
POLK
SAN JACINTO
MONTGOMERY
COAL DEPOSITS
IN EAST TEXAS
W.L. Fisher, Rock and Mineral Resources of East Texas, 1966.

The main office of the company was in Galveston and its officers were John Lovejoy, President; Gus Schultz, Secretary-Treasurer; and A. Sampson, Attorney. This company operated for about a year, until 1900, when the company was sold at auction by Sheriff W. J. Campbell by order of District Court of the County of Galveston, Texas. The court ruled in favor of L. P. Duncan, who was suing to obtain payment for a debt; therefore, on March 6, 1900, all the estate, rights, titles, and interests of the company were sold to B. S. Wittermark for $830.00.[22]

All the mines were similar in production and structure. They were slope mines, having a 45° slanted shaft, except for the Douglass and O. K. mines, which had a straight shaft.[23] Both types of mines had a triffle constructed over them to pull the small one-ton coal cars out of the mine and to raise them high enough to dump into a railroad car or truck. The mines were from sixty to eighty feet deep,[24] with a lignite vein of at least five feet thick. Although blasting was attempted, it proved to be unsuccessful, due to the softness of the ground, and miners had to resort to pick and shovel.[25] The coal was mined and placed into a small one-ton coal car which, when filled, would be pushed to the shaft hole, hooked to a cable, six or seven at a time,[26] and pulled to the top of the triffles by steampower to be dumped.[27] Mines around 1900 in this area used donkeys to pull the ore cars out of the ground.

The shafts were about eight feet wide and six feet in height and were built in a vertical fashion following the vein of coal. There were many branches from the main shaft which were usually about four feet wide and five feet tall. Very few wooden beams were used inside the mines because pillars of coal measuring "ten feet square were left for support."[28] This was probably done using the pillar-and-stall method of mining.[29]

The mines employed largely Mexican labor, which immigrated from Mexico or the Valley. It has been said that G. W. Anderson of the East Texas mine brought in the first Mexicans,[30] but this is not a confirmed statement. Although many of the Mexicans could not speak English, they received fairly good wages, being paid for the number of cars that they filled each day. Each laborer was given tags which he fastened onto each car that he filled. When the full car was pulled to the top of the triffle, the counter would remove the tag and hang it on a board. At the end of the day, each worker's tags were tallied and he was paid thirty cents per tag.[31] Sam Frank, who worked as counter in one of the mines recalled many arguments between Mexicans involving any untagged car which might come up. Usually, any untagged cars would be marked to the benefit of the Company.[32]

Although it is impossible to determine the exact number of Mexican laborers in Garrison during the peak of coal production, an estimation of between one hundred fifty to two hundred families has been made. Mrs. Ruth MacDuffie, former teacher and present resident of Garrison, stated that in 1922-1923, she taught twenty-seven Mexicans in a class of eighty-five for second and third grades.[33]

The largest and almost sole buyer of the coal was the Southern Pacific Railroad, which used the coal from the Garrison mines in its ballast pit in Mayotown.

The coal was used to cook clay brought from Butler Bros., so that it would harden into ballast. The cooking process entailed the laying of three feet of clay in a shallow pit and covering it with three feet of lignite. This layering process

was repeated until it was sixteen to twenty feet tall.[34] Actual cooking took approximately six months to cook the clay and for the lignite to burn after the bottom layer had been lit. The ballast was loaded on open rail cars while still hot and the townspeople "could see ballast glowing red as it was shipped away."[35] The ballast pit close to Garrison used about sixteen cars of lignite daily and turned out twenty thousand cubic yards of ballast per month to be distributed along two hundred forty miles of rail from Houston to Shreveport.[36]

After their closing in 1902, the mines remained dormant until the end of World War I, when there was a tremendous fuel shortage in the United States.[37] With the price of coal high and rising, it seemed to be an excellent investment and a feasible step to re-open the mines. During this period beginning in 1919 and continuing until 1928, five mines were in operation south of Garrison.

The first mine to open after World War I was the Garrison Coal and Oil Company, headed by Sterling P. Strong and other Dallas capitalists.[38] On May 21, 1919, land for the mine was leased for the production of gas, coal, or other minerals, from J. D. Wilson, H. N. Higginbotham, and C. May, for one dollar an acre for all land for the first year plus ten cents for every ton of coal mined and marketed. If the mine was not developed within a year, the company had to pay one dollar per acre for each year until operation had begun, in order to keep the lease. The lease was good up until ten years if all requirements were met. If coal was found, ten cents per ton was to be paid each month to leaser or to the First State Bank of Garrison. The total acreage leased by the Garrison Coal and Oil Company on May 21, 1919, was two hundred twenty acres.[39] Later, Garrison Coal and Oil leased two hundred forty-seven more acres, from M. L. Cook, P. L. Cook, and W. C. Lee, with approximately the same terms as have been previously described.[40]

In early summer, 1919, the Garrison Coal and Oil Company was opened and operated under the direction of W. W. Hill,[41] and by August was producing up to two hundred fifty dollars worth of lignite coal per day.[42] During the following winter of 1920, the company tried to sell stock certificates of ten shares each for one hundred dollars, with the aid of E. G. Douglass. The company claimed that the stock should sell for twelve dollars and fifty cents per share, but that the one hundred dollar blocks would be offered as a limited special purchase. They tried every means to sell their stock, even offering an installment plan of payment (one-fourth in cash, three months to pay in installments),[43] but the stock was obviously a failure, for the company exhausted its supply of capital and stopped production in October of 1920.[45]

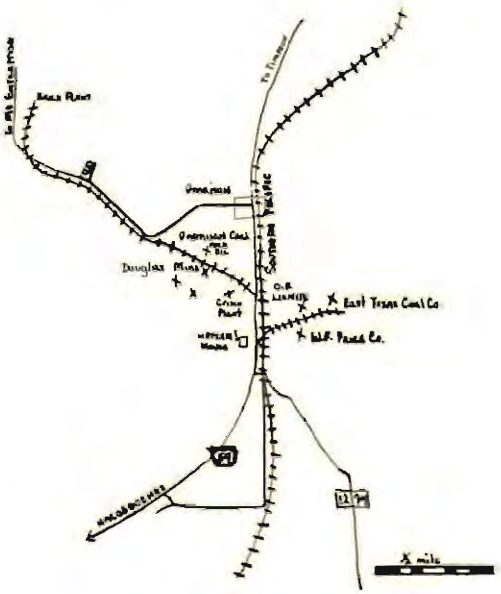
The mine remained vacant for one month until November when E. G. Douglass and Belton Latimer purchased the mine for operation again.[46] With approximately thirty Mexicans being hired to dig coal,[47] production began in early December and advertisements for the coal to be used domestically were seen frequently in the newspapers.[48] The mine experienced a setback on Monday, December 13, 1920, when fire destroyed all the overhead woodwork and a small sawmill that had been used to build the mine, resulting in losses of almost four thousand dollars.[49] Douglass and Latimer, apparently undaunted however, rebuilt the sawmill and had the mine back into production by February, 1921,[50] providing the Southern Pacific Railroad with lignite which was used to cook ballasts. The mine remained in operation until 1926 when the Southern Pacific closed the ballast pit.[51]

The only known tragedy resulting from the operation of the mines occurred at this Garrison mined by Latimer and Douglass. Crawford Cook, who was in charge of the cables, recalls the incident well. One evening, a Mexican and a Negro had come up to prepare a dynamite charge to loosen the coal to be set off at the end of the day. As they were walking back down the shaft, a coal car that was being re-set on the track broke loose suddenly as the cable snapped, and careened to the bottom of the shaft. The two miners were hit and killed.[52]

The largest mine operating in Garrison was the East Texas Coal and Oil Company, which was formed under a Declaration of Trust on May 27, 1919 in Houston, with capitalization of $300,000.[53] H. D. Garrison was the first president of the company, but was replaced by W. W. Wallace by 1921. The company was composed, besides the two men previously mentioned, of Guy G. Gidmann, Curtis C. Saner, and E. R. Eberhart.[54]

The company hired G. W. Anderson[55] to be in charge of the mine's construction, which consisted of a blacksmith shop, a four room boarding house, three small "shotgun" houses, a bath house, one tipple, one small house, a shed over slope of mine, and of course the mine itself.[56] Construction began in October, 1919, after the East Texas Coal and Oil Company had received a contract from Southern Pacific to deliver 200,000 tons of coal f.o.b. Garrison.[57] The company obtained leases similar to that of the Garrison Coal and Oil Company, except for the fact that H. D. Garrison and W. W. Wallace compiled leases from thirty-three different people and then sold them to the East Texas Coal and Oil Company for $10,000 cash and $141,000 in East Texas Coal and Oil Company stock. Also, these leases only ran for five years and were renewable at twenty-five cents an acre per year instead of one dollar per year.[58] The East Texas Coal and Oil Company had a suit filed against them by Mrs. Ada Garrison in District Court, Nacogdoches County, on August 30, 1923. The suit was filed to recover the money on a note sold to her by Belton Latimer which he had received from the East Texas Coal and Oil Company.[59] Mrs. Garrison obtained judgment from court on October 13, 1923 for the equipment of the mine to be sold at a Sheriff's sale so that she could obtain the $1,250 due her plus interest.[60] The sale was to take place on November 19, 1923, but did not, because a court order halted it until the company's bankruptcy preceedings could be worked out.[61]

The Douglass mines remained in operation the longest. After operating the Garrison Coal and Oil Company, Douglass opened three smaller mines in 1922, and by February, was able to load one or more train cars daily.[62] One of the Douglass mines was next to the railroad track, but the other two were a distance away, thus employing the use of Model T Trucks to haul the coal from the mines to the train cars. These trucks were driven over a plank road built from the mine to a loading platform which stood ten to twelve feet high, next to the track. The truck driver would dump his load of lignite into the cars from the loading platform.[63] The Douglass mines were prosperous until as late as 1927, with Douglass reporting that he had more coal orders than he could fill.[64] His mines supplied the ballast pits, as well as the local areas, where he sold coal for five dollars per ton.[65] At their peak, the Douglass mines produced a payroll of around $2,000, which probably greatly aided the prosperity of Garrison.[66] They operated until 1928 when natural gas was supplied to Garrison and Nacogdoches.



COAL MINES OF GARRISON

Two other companies were formed, and continued operation until the ballast pit closed. These were the O. K. Lignite Company and the W. F. Price Company.

The O. K. Lignite Company was incorporated on December 9, 1922, with its main office in Garrison, Texas. The Company was formed by C. W. Osborn from South Bend, Indiana; Dr. R. B. Little from Caldwell, Texas; and D. H. Rohrer of Houston, Texas. The capital stock of the corporation was $60,000 divided into six thousand shares worth ten dollars per share.[67] The only purpose of the company was to mine coal, which it did until 1925, after obtaining leases through C. W. Osborn from 1922 to 1924.

The W. F. Price Company obtained leases similar to those of the other companies, beginning on April 14, 1923, with a lease from B. L. Heflin and wife, and expanding with the addition of six more leases in 1924.[68] The company, headed by W. F. Price, of Nacogdoches, operated from the winter of 1923 until the ballast pit closed.

The coal mines in the Garrison area were advantageous in many ways. They were important to the economy of Garrison, bringing a fairly nice payroll to be spent in the town.

FOOTNOTES

[1]W. L. Fisher, *Rock and Mineral Resources of East Texas* (Austin, 1965), p. 268.

[2]*Ibid.*, p. 266.

[5]*Ibid.*, p. 268.

[6]William Battle Phillips, "The Mineral Resources of Texas", *Texas Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 14* (1910), pps. 14-15.

[7]*Texas Almanac, 1925*, p. 143.

[8]"Mineral Facts and Problems", *Bureau of Mines, Bulletin 585*, (1960), p. 445.

[9]E. T. Dumble, "Geology of East Texas", *University of Texas Bulletin 1896*, (1920), p. 276.

[10]W. B. Phillips, "Coal, Lignite and Asphalt Rocks," *University of Texas Bulletin, xv*, (1902), p. 51.

[11]E. T. Dumble, *Report on the Brown Coal and Lignite of Texas; Texas Geological Survey*, (Austin, 1892), p. 193.

[12]Deed Records, Nacogdoches County, Vol. 32, pps. 608-9.

[13]*Ibid.*, Vol. 34, p. 160.

[14]*Ibid.*, Vol. 35, pps. 49-51.

[15]*Ibid.*, Vol. 35, pps. 49-51.

[16]*Ibid.*, Vol. 33, p. 599.

[17]*Ibid.*, Vol. 33, p. 600.

[18]*Ibid.*, Vol. 33, p. 600.

[19]*Ibid.*, Vol. 33, p. 609.

[20]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), March 4, 1900.

[21]Dumble, "Geology of East Texas", p. 279.

[22]*Ibid.*, p. 279

[23]*Deed Records*, Nacogdoches County, Vol. 34, p. 428.

[24]*Deed Records*, Nacogdoches County, Vol. 42, p. 612.

[25]Mr. Crawford Cook with author, Garrison, Texas, March 4, 1966.

[26]Mr. Bonner Wragg with author, Garrison, Texas, March 4, 1966.

[27]Mr. Crawford Cook with author, Garrison, Texas, February 28, 1966.

[28]Mr. Red Garrison with author, Garrison, Texas, February 16, 1966.

[29]Mines in 1900 and before in area used donkeys to pull ore cars.

[30]Mr. Red Garrison with author, Garrison, Texas, February 16, 1966.

[31]Pillar-and-stall method is described in Dwight F. Hendersons' "Texas Coal Mining Industry," *Southwest Historical Quarterly*, LXVII, (October 1964), 210, as founded in George L. Kerr, *Practical Coal Mining*, (London, 1901), pps. 113-114.

[32]Mr. Crawford Cook with author, Garrison, Texas, March 4, 1966.

[33]Mr. Crawford Cook with author, Garrison, Texas, February 28, 1966.

[34]Mr. Sam Frank with author, Garrison, Texas, March 4, 1966.

[35]Ruth MacDuffie with author, Garrison, Texas, March 15, 1966.

[36]Red Garrison with author, Garrison, Texas, February 28, 1966.

[37]Will Heflin with author, Garrison, Texas, March 4, 1966.

[38]*Redland Herald*, (Nacogdoches, Texas), January 4, 1926.

[39]*Daily Sentinel*, (Nacogdoches, Texas), January 17, 1918.

[40]*Redland Herald* (Nacogdoches, Texas), May 8, 1919.

[41]*Oil and Gas Lease Records*, Nacogdoches County, Book 5, pps. 277-279.

[42]*Oil and Gas Lease Records*, Nacogdoches County, Book 6, pps. 220-221.

[43]Mr. Crawford Cook with author, Garrison, Texas, February 28, 1966.

[44]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), August 22, 1919.

[45]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), January 20, 1920, Supplement.

[46]*Ibid.*

[45]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), November 27, 1920.
[46]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), November 27, 1920.
[47]Mr. Crawford Cook with author, Garrison, Texas, February 28, 1966.
[48]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), December 16, 1920.
[49]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), December 17, 1920.
[50]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), February 4, 1921.
[51]*Redland Herald* (Nacogdoches, Texas), January 14, 1926.
[52]Mr. Crawford Cook with author, Garrison, Texas, March 4, 1966.
[53]*Oil and Gas Lease Records*, Nacogdoches County, Book 6, p. 79.
[54]Mrs. Ada Garrison vs. East Texas Coal and Oil Company, No. 6,209. August 30, 1923, District Court, Nacogdoches County, Texas. This is from the Defendant's Original Answer.
[55]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), October 11, 1919.
[56]Order of Sale issued by Sheriff Campbell under orders from District Court, Nacogdoches County on October 13, 1923.
[57]*Redland Herald* (Nacogdoches, Texas), September 30, 1920.
[58]*Oil and Gas Lease Records*, Nacogdoches, Texas, Book 6, p. 79.
[59]Mrs. Ada Garrison vs. East Texas Coal and Oil Company, No. 6,209, August 22, 1923, District Court, Nacogdoches County, Texas. This is from the Plaintiff's Original Petition.
[60]Mrs. Ada Garrison vs. East Texas Coal and Oil Company, No. 6,209, October 13, 1923, District Court, Nacogdoches County, Texas.
[61]Supplement to Order Sale issued by Sheriff Campbell.
[62]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), February 17, 1922.
[63]Mr. Bonner Wragg, with author, Garrison, Texas, March 4, 1966.
[64]Nugent E. Brown, comp., *The Book of Nacogdoches County* (Houston, 1922), p. 37.
[65]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), October 26, 1925.
[66]*Daily Sentinel* (Nacogdoches, Texas), February 17, 1922.
[67]Charter of the O. K. Lignite Company, December 9, 1922. It is filed with the Secretary of State of Texas.
[68]*Oil and Gas Lease Records*, Nacogdoches, Texas, Book 14, pps. 398, 415, 417, 419, 424, 559, 561.

W. L. Fisher, Rock & Mineral Resources of East Texas

COUNTY ARCHIVES AS A SOURCE OF HISTORY: RUSK COUNTY ARCHIVES, AN EXAMPLE

Irvin May

Rich and rewarding experiences await the historian who visits one of the more than 3,000 county archives in the United States. County archives contain valuable sources for the study of local history, government, economics and society. In most states, county archives are the first sizeable accumulation of local history, government, economics and society. In most states, county archives are the first sizeable accumulation of local records. The keystone position of county records in the national record structure remains unquestioned.[1] Yet some historians neglect county archives. Their vast importance is minimized. One has only to consult bibliographical guides and the bibliographies of county and state histories to conclude that county archives constitute a vast unexplored reservoir.

What are county archives? County archives consist of written or printed books or maps made and received in pursuance of law by counties in the transaction of public business. "They comprise the entirety of public records or documents officially produced and received by the officers of all government subdivisions" within the county. County archives include official correspondence, letter books, reports, minute books, wills, marriage records, vital statistics, deeds, official oaths and bonds, vouchers, assessment rolls, tax lists, court records, election returns, militia lists, records of estates, and all other papers and documents accumulated during the operation of the units of local government. Excluded from county archives are personal papers which originate from private sources and the private correspondence of local officers.[2]

County archives reflect the citizens' concern for local government, the need of individuals for local government and the efficiency of local elected and non-elected representatives. The archives contain vast amounts of information which protect the rights of the individual and his government.

The dependence of the citizens upon local government has been a major factor in establishing county archives. Other contributing factors included the dislike of large and centralized government, lack of communication, isolation and local pride. However, recently this relationship has been changing.

Future management of county records will be affected by three factors. These are the increase or decrease in county population, the expanding needs of the citizens in terms of governmental services, and the money to pay for these services. With the anticipated increase in county services, there will be more records in county archives.[3] The historian must be cognizant of the nature of county archives if he is to use them wisely.

Research in county archives is a unique experience and often an uninviting challenge. Many historians consider research in county archives too time consuming in relation to the material received. Why? County archives are numerous and occasionally unorganized. Designed primarily for the use of county agencies and not for historical research, they are often inconvenient sources of historical materials. The researcher encounters many unfamiliar and occasionally conflicting methods of arrangement and order which vary within county agencies and are

subject to change with the election of new county officials. Records may vary from an alphabetical-chronological arrangement to the look-and-see approach. Within each county office, the researcher handles records containing a minimum of detail to elaborate, highly detailed records of great value.

Some county archives are immaculate, well organized and contain ample facilities for research. Facilities of this nature are the exception rather than the rule. Most county officials do not realize the importance of county archives. Records have not been kept in good order. There are many instances when county officials have indiscriminately destroyed records or allowed records to accumulate in chaos. The researcher must be aware that most operating agencies of government do not normally keep or want their noncurrent records. County officials usually do not have the time, the personnel, the funds or the facilities to maintain adequate care of their archives and to provide indexes to all records. Noncurrent records are often considered a space problem for operating agencies. Unless county officials take special interest in their records, the records are not well preserved.[4]

The researcher should not expect to find all public records complete. The major destroyers of public records are fire, decay and use.[5] Valuable Rusk County records were destroyed by fire. The first fire occurred on August 5, 1860, and the second on March 6, 1878. Although complete destruction of county records did not occur in either instance, many records were destroyed. These fires have made it difficult for historians to assess the severity of "reconstruction" in the county after the Civil War.

County officials have also destroyed valuable records. Ignorance of their value, lack of interest and need for space are common reasons for destruction. Because of the lack of specific state legislation regulating the preservation and disposal of public records, their fate has rested "solely with their custodians and the governing county officials."[6]

The preservation of county records in Rusk County has been, with few exceptions, efficiently accomplished. In all offices the researcher will find ample facilities and room to conduct his research.

The County Clerk's office is the center of the county archives. His records are those most frequently consulted by historians and the general public. The county clerk has a three-fold function. He is the ex-officio recorder for the county, the clerk of the county court and the clerk of the commissioners court. As clerk of the county court, he records and preserves all papers relating to civil, criminal and probate cases. As clerk of the commissioners court, he makes and preserves a record of the court's proceedings. His office is the legal depository for records of notaries public and the surveyor. The clerk is required to record official discharges of all persons serving in the armed forces and to complete alphabetical cross indexes to all records of judgment.

The most important records are the Minutes of the Commissioners Court. The partial inventory of Rusk County Archives compiled by the Historical Records Survey lists the earliest entry as 1844. However, examinations reveals that volume one contains minutes from 1852 to 1859. Records prior to 1852 are not available. Volume two contains minutes from 1859 to 1883. After 1878 the entries seem

to be fairly complete. Beginning with volume four, an alphabetical name index occurs. The records are preserved in bound volumes on easily accessible roller shelves. "County commissioners' records constitute the nearest approach to a connected and inclusive account of the county's past."[7] They provide the historian with a history of county taxing and spending, the development of county government, the building and maintenance of transportation routes. They are also valuable sources of political and social history.

In 1860 Rusk County had 6,132 slaves,[8] but the records indicating sale or ownership of slaves are not available.[9]

Wills and probate records are valuable sources of information regarding property divisions, marriages, blood relationships and vital statistics. The Probate Records begin in 1847 and the first three volumes are in the District Court Records. Volumes K and L were destroyed in the courthouse fire of 1878, but the remainder are in the County Clerk's office. Following alphabetical, A through Z, listing of volumes, volume one begins in October, 1877. The records are complete through volume 39 which concludes in June, 1946. After that date, probate proceedings are recorded in Probate Minutes beginning with volume 15.

Election returns illustrate the county's political history. Volumes two (1920-1952) and three (1952-) are found in the County Clerk's office. Prior election returns have been misplaced; however, election returns may be examined in the Secretary of State's offices in Austin.

Indispensible tools to biographers, historians and genealogists are the birth, death and marriage records. Birth and Death Records are complete from 1903 to the present. Volumes one, two and 2A (4 volumes) of the Birth Records list births in alphabetical-chronological arrangement. Beginning with volume three, the Birth Records list names in chronological arrangement according to the date filed with the County Clerk's office. At the front of each preceding volume an alphabetical index is provided which gives the name and page number. Beginning in January 1950, birth records are photostated. The Death Record is similar. In 1956 the Delayed Probate Death Record was established. The record contains death notices received about persons who died prior to 1956. These are photostated. The Affidavit Birth Records begin in 1938 with volume 8 and continue through volume 46. In 1960 the records were labelled Court Order Delayed Birth Record and continue from that time.

The earliest marriage recorded was on May 11, 1843. Volume A of the Marriage Records begin with that entry and conclude in 1852. Marriage records are complete from 1843 to the present; however, there is no volume D. This is an error as there is no chronological break. Indexes to the Marriage Records are arranged by husband-wife and by wife-husband listing but are incomplete.

Deed records assume an important role in the Rusk County Archives. The deeds begin in 1843 and are complete with the exception of volumes B through E (1846-1851) which were destroyed by fire. They comprise 782 volumes and for the most part are in chronological order according to the date filed in the County Clerk's office. An exception is volume 91 which contains deeds from 1904-1917. In 1930 the great East Texas Oil Field was discovered in Rusk County. Many residents who had not filed their deeds rushed to the courthouse. The attack

overwhelmed County Clerk W. T. Arnold and his small staff. The result is that from 1930 to 1934 deeds were not arranged by date of filing. Beginning with volume 438 (1949) the deeds are photostated. Deed records give the names, dates, occupations of participants, prices paid, and a rather detailed description of the land conveyed. Indexes to the deeds give the name of the grantor, the grantee, the kind of instrument, volume number, page number and date of filing. These indexes are both direct and reverse. The direct index lists the grantors in alphabetical order; the reverse index lists the grantees first. There are indirect and direct indexes for all deeds, including the missing volumes.

The tax records are kept in the office of the County Tax Assessor-Collector. The office contains tax records beginning in 1919; those prior to 1919 are kept in the County Clerk's vault. These records aid in assessing the wealth of the county. The Tax-Assessor-Collector's office also maintains a modern card abstract which is supposed to be a complete ownership and property description record. Established in 1961, it is contained in three metal filing cabinets on the third floor of the courthouse. The arrangement is by towns in alphabetical order and then by lot numbers. In rural areas, property is arranged alphabetically by survey and then by landlord or estate. By consulting the huge county map on the east wall, one discovers a land abstract of the county. Once locating the correct survey, it is possible for one to find a tract of land and trace its ownership in the card abstract. Unfortunately the records are not complete, and some are erroneous. To prevent serious error, one should consult the clerk on duty.

The office also contains other records of value. Bound volumes of Assessment of Property in Rusk County; Owned and Rendered for Service and Oil Company Division Orders, preserved in post binders, are valuable for determining ownership of minerals. The Assessor's Abstract of City Lots record city property dating from 1880. The system of recording varies. The usual citation is lot number, name of property owner and value of property. The records are arranged chronologically, but the year 1921 may be found following 1907.

The office of District Clerk contains the Civil and Criminal Minutes which are preserved in metal containers. The Criminal Minutes are supposedly complete from 1869. The earliest Civil Minutes examined were dated January 4, 1847, and are complete from 1882. The District Clerk's office also contained Juvenile Records dating from 1943, Bench Warrants, Trust Fund Records, Jurors Certificates, Divorce Minutes and Registration of Doctors. There is a General Index of District Court Minutes, 1933 to the present.

Adjacent to the offices of the District Clerk are the Sheriff's offices. The Sheriff's Civil Docket and Fee Book, complete since 1939, is divided into three parts. The first part contains district court records which list the items and amount of cost, names of parties, and cost and mileage of serving citations, the kind of process, and the name of the officer. The second part contains county court records and lists the participants, the officer and the fee. Foreign fees constitute the third division. This division lists suits from other counties against Rusk County residents and lists the fee, officer and defendant. The Sheriff's Criminal Docket and Fee Book contains similar information and is complete since 1934. The Register of Prisoners Confined in Jail is complete since 1902.

These records reveal much about the moral conduct of Rusk County inhabitants. Unfortunately the value of these records varies greatly with each administration.

The prudent researcher should not overlook other county offices which may contain pertinent records of particular historical interest. These offices would include the County Superintendent, the County Treasurer, County Surveyor, County Attorney, County Health Officer, County Judge, County Auditor, and the Justices of Peace.

Unfortunately no complete guide exists to the county archives of the United States. Yet, the historian may use some incomplete guides. Henry P. Beers's *Bibliographies in American History* (1942) is a good point of departure. With the exception of the Historical Records Survey, existing guides to county archives published prior to 1942 are nearly all in Beers's work. Robert B. Downe's *American Library Resources, A Bibliographical Guide* (1951) with supplement (1951-1961) includes American Historical Association reports concerning local archives. It includes references to published Historical Records Survey inventories, yet excludes inventories sponsored by state agencies. The *Bibliographical Index* should be consulted for current bibliographies. The *American Archivist* is the foremost journal in its field. With few exceptions, since 1943 this journal has published a section entitled "Writings on Archives and Manuscripts" (title varies) which lists recent bibliographies. Also, one may find beneficial articles on state, federal, county and local archives in the journal.

From 1935 to 1942 the Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration attempted to arrange, classify and inventory records in public depositories. More than 700 inventories of county archives were published before the work was halted in June, 1942. The work accomplished by this agency was invaluable. Published inventories of county archives were listed in the *Checklist of Historical Records Survey Publications* (1936-1942).

The inventories of the Historical Records Survey are excellent guides. Arrangement is by county office and then by record types. The records' condition and their manner of storage are indicated. Also the inventories include a brief county history, information on the housing and care of records, county governmental organization and a county map. Only twenty-four Texas county inventories were published before the project was halted. The county inventories were for Bandera, Bastrop, Brown, Calhoun, Caldwell, Denton, Dewitt, Fayette, Gillespie, Gregg, Hays, Hood, Jackson, Marion, Milam, Miles, Orange, Robertson, Rockwall, Sabine, Somervell, Uvalde and Wilson counties. Incomplete inventories of all Texas county archives have been placed in the University of Texas Library. Today they are part of the Archives Collection of the University of Texas.

Of lesser value is *The Official Publications of American Counties: A Union List*, compiled by James G. Hodgson. The work includes 5,243 entries which list county publications. Texas has only thirty-nine entries.

County archives remain the best source of information for county and local history. They reveal the origin and development of local government, reflect the life of the people and contain voluminous material concerning social, political, legal, moral, and economic conditions of the area. They are a valuable storehouse of materials for the biographer, genealogist and historian.

FOOTNOTES

[1]Edward M. Johnson, "Trends in the County Records Management," *The American Archivist,* XXIV (1961), 297-299.

[2]American Historical Association. Public Archives Commission. *The Preservation of Local Archives: A Guide for Public Officials* (Washington, 1932), 5.

[3]Johnson, *The American Archivist,* XXIV, 297-299.

[4]Phillip C. Brooks, *Public Records Management* (Chicago, 1961), 15.

[5]American Historical Association. A Public Archives Commission Guide, 5; H. G. Jones, "North Carolina's Local Records Program," *The American Archivist,* XXIV (1961), 27.

[6]Franklin F. Holbrook, "Some Possibilities of Historical Field Work," *Minnesota History Bulletin,* II (1917), 72.

[7]Dorman Winfrey, *A History of Rusk County, Texas* (Waco, 1961), 37; *Eighth United States Census* (Microfilm), *Population Schedule.* University of Texas Library, Austin, Texas.

[8]The only information I gained was a direction to the Julian Devereux will located in Volume G, pages 344-359 of the *Probate Records.* Although the will is fascinating reading, little knowledge of the county's slave trade was gained.

[9]American Historical Association. Public Archives Commission Guide, 7.

ACCOUNT OF A JOURNEY THROUGH NORTHEASTERN TEXAS

EDWARD SMITH

NOTE: Terrell W. Conner, Jr., the President of the East Texas Historical Association, is a collector of Texas Maps. Among the photocopies of maps in his collection is a map showing the route of inspectors through North-Eastern Texas in 1849. He first thought this particular map had been made for inspectors of land certificates, but the map began in Jefferson and made a circular route, instead of beginning or returning to Austin. Then he realized that the year 1849 was not the date of the Inspection of Land Certificates for they had been authorized by Fourth Congress of the Republic. Later he learned the map of the inspection trip through Texas in 1849 had been taken from a book which was written by an Englishman, Edward Smith. Conner was intrigued by the map and was determined to find the book from which it was taken. Through the assistance of the Daingerfield Public Library, he obtained a copy of Smith's book, and Conner and his wife working together made an exact typed copy. The *East Texas Historical Journal* using Conner's copy will reproduce the book in three installments.

As a result of Dr. Smith's report, in October 1850, about one hundred English colonists arrived in Galveston and made a difficult overland trip to the Bosque, some fifty miles north of Waco, and established a colony. They settled in a fertile valley and established what they called the City of Kent. Kent was carefully platted. Inexperience, poor management by the immigrant company, a severe winter, hostile Indians, unsanitary dugout houses, and disease caused the colony to be abandoned. Some of the colonists moved to other areas in Texas, some to other states, and a few returned to England.

ACCOUNT OF A JOURNEY

through

NORTH-EASTERN TEXAS

Undertaken in 1849

Embodied in

A REPORT

To Which Are Appended

LETTERS AND VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS,

from Eminent Individuals

Lists of Temperature; of prices of land, produce, and articles of merchandise; and of cost of carriage and labour; in several parts of the Western and Southern States;

And the recently adopted

CONSTITUTION OF TEXAS

with

Maps From the Last Authentic Survey

by

EDWARD SMITH

M.D., L.L.B., B.A., &c.

LONDON:

Hamilton, Adams, & Co., Paternoster Row;

Birmingham: B. Hudson, Bull Street

1849

TO HENRY FREARSON, Esq.

My Dear Sir,

The accompanying Report contains the result of an inspection of the North-eastern part of Texas, undertaken in March last, at the instance of a body of Gentlemen of whom you are the President; when my esteemed friends, John Barrow, Esq., C. E., and myself, engaged to carry out your designs. I have borrowed the plan of it from the Instructions which were then put into my hands, and of which the following is a copy:—

"Instructions to the Inspectors.

"They shall examine into and report upon the following matters:

"1st—The general Healthfulness of Texas—of the neighbourhood surrounding the proposed location—of the location itself. The causes which produce the diseases incident to Texas and how far they attach permanently or otherwise to the proposed location.

"2nd—The relative advantages of Northern, Western, Eastern, and Southern Texas, as respects the heat of the climate, salubrity, fertility, internal intercourse, and the variety, abundance, and remunerative character of the productions; as also the security, commercial position, and the probability of producing wealth.

"3rd—The character of the lands proposed for our acceptance:

"a. Soil—its character and varieties; its universal, general, or partial fertility.

"b. Wood—its quantity, quality, and variety; the relative proportion and value of the woodland and prairie, and the ease or difficulty which would attend a fair division of the estate amongst the emigrant purchasers. The best mode of effecting such division.

"c. Communication—

1st, Roads—Their present character, and the facilities for keeping them in repair. This will include the question of the geological formation of that part of Texas.

2nd, Rivers—Their size and direction, and how far they are navigable.

3rd, Ports—The distance to the nearest river or lake port, and to the nearest seaport. The cost of conveying produce thither from the lands.

4th, Railroads—The probability as to the speedy formation of such means of communication, and the difficulties which would attend such an undertaking.

"d. Productions—Their nature, and their value on the land, and at the ports —the nearest and best markets for such produce, whether on the land or not. What manufactures can be profitably undertaken so as to use the raw material there produced.

"What productions are most remunerative and suitable to the welfare of a Colony—of a Colony of Europeans; and the relative amount of toil required to raise them.

"The price, quality, and abundance, of horses, cattle, sheep, and hogs.

"e. Water, Salt-springs, Minerals—Their quantity, quality, and position.

"f. Labour—Its cost, as regards the various necessary operations; and the kind of artizans and labourers which the Colony should import.

"g. Security—Whether endangered by men or beasts, the names of the noxious animals, reptiles and insects, (if any) which may infest the Colony.

4th—The laws respecting the rights, duties and privileges of aliens.

5th—The best route to Texas, with the expense of passage in chartered vessels. The outfit required by emigrants, and the articles which they should take out for their own use, or for the purposes of trade; and the wholesale and retail price of such articles at New Orleans, and other large cities.

6th—Slavery, is it *generally* employed.

7th—The general position of the inhabitants, as respects intelligence, morality, enterprise, and wealth."

In making our inspection, we have religiously respected your desires, in carefully inquiring into the various subjects on which you sought information. In no instance have we consulted the works written on Texas, but are content to lay before you the results of our own inspection and inquiry only, referring you to such works for a more connected and detailed account of that State. It may be that I have represented that country in all essential particulars, much as it had been previously described by others, but should such be the case, you have now the advantage of confirmation testimony, and that brought down to the present moment.

The Report has no pretension to correctness in style, for the hurry in which it has been prepared and printed has admitted many modes of expression and typographical errors, which would not have passed unchallenged had more leisure been permitted to be. I have endeavored truthfully to present to you a statement of facts and opinions written concisely, and as I trust, intelligibly, and which have an immediate reference to the object which you have in view.

The lists of articles and tables of temperature, have been compiled with care. American money has been used in them for the most part, in order to avoid error, and to preserve great accuracy; and it may be readily reduced to the English standard. The American dollar ($) is worth 4s 2d; the cent (o/o) ½d; the New York shilling, sixpence, and penny, are respectively worth one-half of the like English coins, and the bit of Southern and Western States is equal in value to the New York Shilling.

I desire to direct your attention to the accompanying letters, and especially to that of Mr. De Cordova, which contains much information concerning the most vexed question in that country, viz., the titles to property.

The verbal communications have been appended to the Report, in order that some of our authorities might speak for themselves; and also that much matter might be presented to you, which could not with propriety have been inserted in the body of the Report. I regret the necessity which has withheld me from offering to you a mass of communications respecting many of the Western States.

We felt that the Report could not be considered as complete, unless the Constitution of Texas were added to it; for it behooves every emigrant to well consider the spirit of the laws, under the influence of which he is about to place himself, and this ought to be well expressed in the Constitution of the State. You will recollect that I presented to the Meeting specimens of the red and black soils; of iron ore, and other minerals; of wheat and tobacco; of bois d'arc, oak, and other kinds of wood; and also articles of native manufacture; all of which were intended to illustrate the various parts of the Report.

I have great pleasure in publicly expressing my gratification in having had so able, indefatigable, and courteous a coadjutor in this, a new and arduous undertaking; and it is also due to Mr. Barrow to intimate that he is not responsible for any statement made in the Report, although I well know our opinions coincide on all important points.

The whole work is now offered to the public, at the request of the Gentlemen for whose guidance it was originally written; and I fervently hope that it may be of service to the thousands of our fellow countrymen, who annually seek distant lands; and entrust their lives, families, property, and future efforts, to the care of strangers.

I am,
My Dear Sir,
Your sincere friend and servant,
EDWARD SMITH

Fall House, Heanor, Derbyshire
October 9th, 1849

REPORT

Mr. Barrow and myself left Liverpool on April 10th, 1849, on board the packet ship Constitution, and after an unusually quick passage arrived at New York on May 1st.

Captain Britton, of the Constitution, kindly introduced us to Mr. Grinnel, one of the leading merchants and politicians of New York, in the hope that he could give us information as to the position of the Land Office, for the sale of Texan lands. Mr. Grinnel received us in a very gentlemanly manner, and walked with us to the office of Mr. Brower, a Texan merchant, in South Street, from whom we received much information, and also letters to several mercantile firms in Texas. Whilst conversing with him, Commodore Moore, of the late Texan navy, entered the office, and from his intimate personal knowledge of the country was of great service to us. Mr. Brower requested his partner to introduce us to Mr.

Bean, 39, Water Street, (who had travelled through Texas, and had distinguished himself by the publication of his letters respecting it,) who gave us letters to gentlemen of influence of Texas, and especially to his brother-in-law, Colonel Ward, the late head-commissioner of the Land Office at Austin. Mr. Bean introduced us to Mr. Kimball, counsellor-at-law, 53, Wall Street, who favoured us with a letter of introduction to Mr. De Cordova, a surveyor of great eminence, at Houston, well acquainted with almost every part of Texas. From these gentlemen we received much courtesy, and learned that the Federal Government held no lands in Texas, and, consequently, that the General Land Office was not at Washington, but at Austin, the capital of Texas. Having been so unexpectedly favoured with many letters of introduction, we were the more anxious to pursue our journey, and to enter upon our examination of Texas; but it was no easy matter for us to select our route.

There are four ordinary routes to Texas. First, the northern route, by the Hudson river, the Albany and Buffalo Railroad, Lake Erie, the Central Michigan Railroad, Lake Michigan, Illinois Canal, Illinois River, and the Mississippi River to New Orleans. This route extends over a space of 2,700 miles, and to traverse it required an outlay in time of about sixteen days, and in money of $42, and it had the advantage to us of taking us into direct association with many of the Western States. Secondly, the route to Cincinnati, by the Alleghanny Mountains, or by Lake Erie and the Ohio Railroad, and thence direct to New Orleans by the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. This journey would occupy nine days at a cost of $50, or thirteen days at a cost of $35, and would be of no especial benefit to us, since it would be undertaken through well-settled States, and to which no large colony could emigrate. Thirdly, the southern mail route, through Philadelphia, Washington, Charleston, Montgomery, and Mobile, to New Orleans, would require eight days at a cost of $110, and have the inconvenience of frequent changes in the mode of conveyance. It passed through the Southern States exclusively, and from them we could not glean information useful to our purposes. Fourthly, by steamer to New Orleans, or sailing vessels to Galveston; the former requiring eight days, with $60 in the first, and $50 in the second cabin; the latter, twenty-one days, at a cost of $50. To both these we objected that we did not like the sea voyage, and could learn nothing respecting any of the States. After much inquiry and consideration we determined to take the costly and more northern route, still another and a most important question remained unanswered. Ought we to enter Texas by the Red River or by a Southern port, as Galveston? We preferred the Red River route, since, by our instructions, we were required to examine North-East Texas especially, and therefore, it was our duty to gain some personal knowledge of this great outlet for its produce. But all of our letters of introduction were directed to persons residing in the south, as at Houston and Austin, and until we had seen the plans at the Land Office, we could not know where to find the large plots of land, and without this knowledge our examination of the country must be very imperfect. This question caused us some anxiety, but the following consideration ultimately decided our course. The gentlemen from whom we had received letters of introduction had pre-eminently recommended the central part of Texas, and had urgently desired us to proceed to Galveston, and present our letters before we entered upon our inspection. We had reason to believe them to be gentlemen of undoubted honour and respectability, but we had no evidence before us to show that they were not interested parties, who desired

us to be guided by the advice of others in Texas, who might be associates in the same interest. If they were so interested we knew that their friends in Texas would recommend those portions of the country where their interest lay, and consequently, would represent other parts, and, perhaps, the north-eastern, as inferior to them. To their assertions, we could not offer an opposing argument, unless we had previously seen some part of the country, and consequently might have indulged unjust suspicions, or by implicit confidence have been led into error. We therefore determined first to travel through North-Eastern Texas, and subsequently present our letters.

We found it necessary to take other precautions in our intercourse with the people, for we observed that each regarded his own state, county, township, and plot, as the best part of America, leading him unfairly to detract from the merits of other portions of the country. The boundless resources of the country, and the enviable prosperity of the people, gives to the inhabitants the habit of using exaggerated expressions of feeling, and the positive and comparative are less frequently employed than the superlative. We therefore detracted from the force of their expressions whether of approval or disapproval, and endeavoured to believe what they really intended to convey. Every American is a landowner, and nearly every American is a speculator in lands, so that we soon discovered that much of the information offered to us was tendered by interested parties. These considerations taught us not to rely upon any information unless it had been obtained from persons very variously circumstanced; and usually we inspected the matter ourselves.

We left New York on the day after our arrival at that city, and after a most interesting and instructive voyage of fifteen days, through, or touching upon, the States of New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana, arrived at New Orleans on May 17th. On the latter day we left New Orleans, and reached Shreeveport [sic] on the 21st, after a voyage of seventy-five hours. There we found it most difficult to obtain horses, and therefore determined to embark on board a steamer, which passed through the interesting chain of lakes to Jefferson, situated at the head of Navigation, on Cypress Creek. Whilst awaiting the arrival of this boat we were informed that a number of English people had recently arrived at Shreeveport [sic], and were then encamped at the neighbouring [sic] springs. On visiting this encampment, we found about forty persons living in a log house, enlarged by canvass, and Mrs. Peede informed us that Dr. Peede and Mr. Richardson, the London agent for the company, had led them out, and that they had proceeded to Dallas county to choose a settlement. The emigrants are poor people of various trades, who had agreed to pay L22 for a free passage to the settlement and for twenty-five acres of land. No emigrant could engage for less than one share, but he might possess several shares at the same proportionate rate. In our subsequent journeyings we fell on the track of these gentlemen, and learned that they had purchased the preemption right of Mr. Damons, over 640 acres of land, well-situated near to Porter's Bluff, the intended head of navigation of the Trinity. For this they had paid $½ per acre, and the headright which they would require would probably make the total cost $1 per acre.

On the morning of the 23rd we left Shreeveport [sic], arriving at Jefferson on the 24th, and after experiencing some delay and much annoyance in the purchase

of horses, we commenced our inspection on May 25th, having left England six weeks and three days. We rode through Cass, Titus, Hopkins, Lamar, Fannin, Grayson, Collins, and Dallas counties in their order, and arrived at Dallas city, situated in longitude 96° 40′ on June 9th. There we met with Hon. Judge Mills, canvassing for the office of Governor of the State, and since we had already frequently crossed his path, he had become acquainted with us and the object of our journey. We had now reached the most westerly point of that part of the State which we had undertaken to examine, and had gained as much information respecting it as appeared to be attainable by us. Three circumstances then engaged our consideration. First, we were in the middle of summer, with poor and jaded horses, and could travel at a slow rate only. Second, our funds were much reduced, rendering it imperative that no unnecessary expense should be incurred. Third, it is customary for gentlemen residing in the south to retire to the north during some of the summer months, and the Hon. Judge informed us that the heat and the cholera had driven the Governor of the state to the banks of the Trinity, and it was probable that those to whom we had letters would have left the south also. The Hon. George Smythe, the Head Land Commissioner, would probably remain at his post, and would give us the positions of large plots of land, with the names and residence of their owners; but unless we had the opportunity of examining these lands, the information could be obtained as satisfactorily by letter. We fully explained our matters to the Judge, and he advised us to proceed no further; offering to convey any information, by letter or otherwise, to the Government, and to lend us his assistance. He also advised us to suspend the completion of our arrangements until the next session of the Legislature, when Government would order large portions of land to be offered for sale, for the purpose of paying off the national debt. He particularly recommended thirty leagues of land, which had been set aside for educational purposes, and which lay on the borders of Grayson and Collins counties, on the route of the proposed Great Pacific Railroad. He advised that we should send an authorized agent to Austin during the next session of the Legislature, prepared to make an offer to the Governor for this or any other plot of Government lands, and he was sure that it would be obtained on most advantageous terms. From these various considerations we determined to write letters to the Hon. G. Smythe and Mr. De Cordova, and to return through the southern of the north-eastern counties in order to render our examination of North-East Texas more complete. We then turned our faces homewards, with not a few regrets, and left Dallas City on the evening of June 9th; and after passing through Dallas, Kaufman, Van Zandt, Smith, Upshur, and Harrison Counties, arrived at Shreeveport [sic] late at night on the 18th, horses and riders much fatigued with a long journey. On the next morning we set out for New Orleans and reached that city on the 22nd, when we immediately proceeded to Cincinnati, up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, through the States of Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio, arriving on July 4th, amidst the celebrations of the anniversary of American independence. There Mr. Barrow and myself separated. I traversed the length of the State of Ohio, Lake Erie, and the State of New York, whilst Mr. Barrow took the less expeditious, but cheaper and more picturesque, route of Upper Ohio, Pittsburg, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia, to New York. I reached New York on July 7th, and on the same day set sail for England, in the splendid packet ship New World, and arrived at

Liverpool on July 27th, having travelled 7,000 miles on the Atlantic, and 7,500 miles in America, in three-and-a-half months.

In presenting the following report, it must be distinctly understood that any opinion stated therein respecting Texas has exclusive reference to the part which has been examined by us, unless otherwise expressed, and in drawing up the report, I have adhered as closely as possible to the plan laid down in our instructions. It will be remarked by you that a large portion of those instructions had reference to the examination of a specific plot of land, and since that plot was withdrawn from sale before we left England, I have endeavoured to make the "Instructions" applicable to North Eastern Texas as a whole.

The Nature of the Soil

The soil is universally alluvial, and has received names according to its colour rather than its composition; as black, mullattoe, grey, ash, and red, and of these the black, red, and grey soils, are the best defined.

The grey soil prevails in Cass, Titus, Hopkins and Kaufman counties, and is exclusively of a sandy nature. Its fertility differs with the proportionate quantity of sand, and adjoining tracts are fertile in very different degrees. As a rule it is easily washed by the rains, and therefore the hills and elevated ridges are less fertile than the vallies. It is very light, and is worked by one horse during all seasons. In depth it varies much, but probably will not average more than 12 inches. As a whole, that of Cass County is richer than that of Titus County, and both are inferior to the black and red soils. It produces excellent cotton, corn, and vines, on the woodland. The prairies of Hopkins county afford excellent pasturage, and the soil being stiffer than on the woodland, wheat and small grain may be grown with profit.

The black soil commences in Red River county on the east, and extends through the magnificent prairies of Lamar, Fannin, Grayson, Collins, Cooke, and Dallas; and also, as we are informed, to and beyond the cross timbers on the west, and the main streams of the Colorado, Brazos, and other rivers, on the south-west. The color is remarkably deep. Its consistence varies much as the lime or the sand prevails, some portions being light and friable in all weathers, and easily worked with one horse, whilst other portions can be cultivated during dry seasons only. In depth it varies from a few inches to twenty feet, but with the exception of certain parts of Cooke and Dallas counties, where the lime points abound, I have not seen it of a less depth than from twelve to twenty inches. In the vallies its depth has never been determined except at certain points, where the rain has formed deep ravines in the soil, at the bottom of which the substratum may be seen. It is universally admitted to be the finest soil in the country, equalling in fertility the rich alluvial bottoms of the great Mississippi valley, to portions of which soil it bears a striking resemblance. All the productions of the grey soil grow on the black soil, but with far greater luxuriance. The more sandy varieties are adapted to the growth of cotton, corn, tobacco, and vines, whilst the more limy produce all kinds of small grain, figs, peaches, garden vegetables; and all kinds of fruits grow in the utmost perfection on either kind. The "Prairies of the West" which consist of this soil, offer the finest pasturage in the world.

The red soil predominates in Harrison and Bowie counties, and on all banks of the Red River, and alternates with the grey soil in Cass, Titus, Van Zandt, Smith, and Upshur counties. There are two grand divisions, the one of an homogeneous nature, which is called the Red "River soil", and the other of a gravelly nature, evidently mixed with ironstone and red marl. The former kind is greatly preferred, and is unsurpassed for the growth of cotton and corn; and the attention given to these productions has prevented the general cultivation of other articles on these lands.

Wood

Cass, Titus, Smith, Van Zandt, Upshur, and Harrison counties, are exclusively covered by wood; whilst in Kaufman, Hopkins, Red River, Lamar, Fannin, Collins, Grayson, Cooke and Dallas, both prairie and woodland are found, with the former usually preponderating. The varieties of wood are the black oak, white oak, red oak, post oak, and black jack, which exist universally, with pine, live oak, ash, elm, sycamore, hickory, walnut, sweet gum, cotton wood, wild plum, cherry and hackberry more commonly, and the beautiful bois d'Arc, the cedar, and the cypress, in isolated localities. The pine is very much esteemed, and we met with it in certain parts of Cass and Titus counties, and on the Upper Red River, also at the heads of the Trinity, and on the Sabine, and in all the parts west of Marshall in Harrison county. It is found but sparingly in Hopkins county, and not at all on the nothern prairies. It is yellow, and of fine quality, being exceedingly full of resinous matter. At three feet from the ground it is usually from two to three feet in diameter, and in common with the sweet gum, cotton wood, white oak, ash and sycamore, grows, (especially in the vallies) to the height of 100 or 120 feet. The varieties of oak are not equal to the English oak, but the live oak is highly esteemed in shipbuilding. The white and red oak grow to a large size, whilst the post oak and black jack is a scrubby wood. The ash, elm, and beech, are excellent. The bois d'Arc, is a beautiful yellow hard wood, very enduring from which are made excellent waggons [sic], and articles of furniture. The French use the yellow as a dye, and beautiful walking sticks are made from the twigs. The hickory is a heavy dark-coloured wood, very suitable for tool handles, and fuel for domestic purposes, and vast herds of pigs feed upon its nuts. The red cedar splits readily, and is very enduring when used as fencing, being even superior to the black locust tree of the Western States. Cypress is used more commonly in the manufacture of water butts and troughs, and is the best fuel for steam engines. Of all these kinds of wood, the pine is most esteemed, since it is converted into lumber, and will split readily for fencing. The inhabitants of the neighbourhood of Bonham prefer to send to Pinehill, a distance of 80 miles, for lumber for building purposes, although they have other varieties of wood on their own land. It is used exclusively for the production of charcoal, and the excellence of the product, in connection with the tar, amply repays the expense of burning it. In the parts of the country where fire wood is valuable, they clear the land by at once cutting down the trees, about two feet from the root; otherwise they cut away a ring of the bark, which destroys the foliage, and permits cotton and corn to grow underneath, even during the first year. Of the trees with the bark thus cut away; the hickory of the small size usually die at the end of the second year, whilst the other varieties remain firm from three to five years, when they are easily pulled up and burnt. Stumps decay in about four

years, but in Vermont and the other New England States, they remain firm for sixty years. The wood is not thickly planted, and since the land is almost free from undergrowth, the clearing is effected with much ease.

Communication

Roads. They are universally primitive. Those marked out by the early settlers are usually circuitous, since they were directed amongst the heads of the streams in order to avoid the deep channels of the rivers. The modern roads have been laid out by the State, and were cut by the compass, and consequently are much more direct than the former ones. The track is usually very plain, so that we never lost our way. The condition of such roads depends mainly upon the nature of the soil and the seasons. In dry weather a good open hard road is found almost everywhere, but in rainy seasons the black deep limy soil is far less agreeable than the grey sandy soil. Waggons [sic] constantly traverse all the roads over which we travelled, and no obstacles present themselves except in the small hills where deep gutters have been washed by the rain, and in the river bottoms, which are usually small and numerous. The horseman traverses the country with ease at the rate of 45 miles per day.

Since the soil is universally alluvial, and the stone placed deeply, it is not usual to find Macadamized roads in the States, and in Texas it would not be wise to make them. Hard wood being without value, it is better to lay a footpath of planks, and the carriage way of adzed blocks, which would in the average of years be found less costly than Macadamizing them. In the river bottoms, and other places liable to inundations, it would be well to drive piles for a short distance on which to lay a permanent wooden way. It should be remembered that in the New World the seasons are more fixed than in England, and since in Texas the dry summer season is far longer than the rainy winter season, the natural road remains good for many months together, except small portions at the river crossings. It is probably that the bottoms would be much improved by simply cutting down the wood near to the roads. The settlers are very anxious to improve the roads and demand to work in gangs, occasionally, to effect this improvement without expense. We found bridges of a very simple construction over every creek of any magnitude, but their number ought to be much increased, so that the traveller might never need to tread up the muddy bottom of the smallest rill. An organization of the settlers in any and every part could be most readily effected to improve and increase the number of bridges. These bridges simply consist of transverse beams on which are laid the trunks of small trees or split rails. When the channel is wide, they arrange a support in the centre, made of piles of logs, and upon this the ends of the transverse logs meet. Oxen appear to travel through these muddy bottoms with a loaded waggon more easily than the light horse of the country, and therefore they are more commonly employed. We found the best natural roads upon the red ironstone gravel soil, and upon the superficial limestone at the heads of the Trinity. It is said that a mixture of this soft limestone with the sand of the creek bottoms, converts the black soil into good roads. Ferries are organized over the wide rivers on every road, and let out to private individuals, who are permitted to make a moderate fixed charge of five-pence for a man and horse. We crossed the east fork of Trinity and the Sabine by such ferries.

Rivers. River communications is not sufficiently extensive in North Eastern Texas above 32° of lat. The following are the available points of navigation.

1. Shreeveport [sic] situated in 32° 30′ of latitude, to which point the produce from Northern Louisiana and a large portion of N.E. Texas, is at present carried. Navigation is good from November or December until July or August, and will soon be made good throughout the whole year. This town was built because the "Red River raft" is situated a few miles to the North of it, preventing the passage of large vessels up the stream and constituting this a head of navigation.

2. Jefferson. This is situated in Texas, on Cypress Creek, and in 32° 46′ of lat. It is approached from Shreeveport [sic] by the Red River, and the 12 mile Bayou, and a long chain of lakes, and enters farther to the West than Shreeveport [sic], and consequently is a more convenient port to the settlers in the interior. Steam boats have plyed these lakes during the past four years, but no regular line had been established until the present season. We arrived at Jefferson in the middle of May, and found that ours was the twenty-first arrival during that season. This Port bids fair to seriously injure Shreeveport [sic], but the cost for transit from Jefferson induces many to take their produce sixty miles further to Shreeveport [sic]; but as the quantity of produce increases, it is probable that the rates of freight from Jefferson will diminish.

3. Sulphur fork of Red River. This large branch empties itself into the Red River above the raft. Boats have run a considerable distance up it, but no communication now exists. It is generally believed that it will be rendered navigable up to the bifurcation, near to Lamar county. The only impediments are the overhanging branches of the trees, snags, and small rafts, all of which may be removed at a very inconsiderable expense.

4. Upper Red River. The Red River is perfectly navigable to Fort Washita, nearly 1,000 miles above Shreeveport [sic], and produce may be shipped at any point upon it. The present head of navigation is Pinehill, opposite to Fort Towson and Clarkesville, because the quantity of produce exported from the more westerly parts does not at present support navigation higher up than Pinehill. The charges for freight from Pinehill are extravagantly high when compared with other routes, and to avoid it, some settlers have floated their produce, whilst others prefer to haul it to Shreeveport [sic] at a cost of $1½ per 100 lbs., repaying themselves by back carriage. At the present time all produce conveyed down Upper Red River must be reshipped at Shreeveport [sic] which alone greatly increases the charge for freight, but so soon as the Red River is improved around the raft, vessels will pass up Upper Red River direct from New Orleans, and the rates will be properly adjusted to the distance. I learnt from the State Engineer of Louisiana that the Legislature of that State have ordered certain improvements to be made in the Red River, which have a most important bearing upon the development of N.E. Texas, and should be well considered by our Colony. This engineer is now engaged in enlarging the channel of the Bayou Pierre, by which, and the Rigolet-de-bon-Dieu, the distance from New Orleans is much lessened. This will be effected immediately; and in the autumn he intends to remove such a portion of the falls at Alexandria as shall permit vessels to pass above them at low water. Immediately subsequent to this, he is directed to sound and to stake out a safe course through the chain of lakes, and so to improve the Black and

Red Bayous by forming a canal and by widening them at certain points, so that vessels may pass from New Orleans around the Red River raft. This will be effected during the coming year, when this river will be rendered navigable through the space of 1,400 miles at almost all seasons.

It is not intended to attempt the removal of the Red River raft for the following reasons. It could not be removed except at an immense cost, which could be defrayed by the Federal Government only. It would be speedily re-formed. Very many lakes in Louisiana, and those bordering upon Texas, have been formed by the backing-up of the waters by this raft, and are now navigable; the removal of the raft would partially dry the lands, but it would certainly hinder navigation, and at the present moment the latter consideration is more important than the former. The soil being alluvial is easily washed away by the current, and it is believed that the depth of the new channel is greater than that of the old, and that the water would therefore continue to flow in the new channel if the raft were taken away. Sodo and Clear Lakes are of recent formation, and many now living remember the period when the land was dry. The Indians informed Major Campbell, of Clinton, that the lakes were formed after a great earthquake, and the Major believes it to have been at the occurrence of the earthquake of 1812, when New Madrid, and other parts of the Mississippi valley disappeared. After these improvements shall have been effected, one or more river ports will spring up above 33° of latitude, and all the produce from lands north of 33° lat., and east of 96½° long., may be readily carried to these ports, or to those on the Upper Red River. At the present moment, goods from New Orleans are shipped to Shreeveport [sic], or to Pinehill, and thence are hauled down to Dallas, and to all the western countries.

It seems more than probable that Red River will continue to be the outlet for the produce of Eastern Texas, since it encloses a large portion of the most fertile land, and by it the produce may pass to one of the best markets in the world without transhipment.

5. The Sabine is navigable to Logan's Port, but no regular communication exists at the present time. At a meeting of the settlers in the counties upon either side of this river near to Logan's Port, it was determined that each shall assist in removing the obstructions; so that the river will be immediately rendered navigable to Beechams ferry; and it is said that it may be readily navigated up to its forks. This is of material advantage to Harrison, Upshur, Smith, Van Zandt, and Hopkins, as well as to the more southern counties.

6. The Trinity has been navigated by steam vessels to a point situated about 140 miles below Dallas, and at the present moment steam vessels ply regularly up to the lower part of the river. It is determined to make it navigable to Porter's Bluff, situated about thirty-seven miles below Dallas. At and far above Dallas the river is abundantly wide and deep to permit navigation; but a raft in a dense body of three-quarters of a mile in length, and extending, with some degree of density, fifteen miles, must first be removed. This is dry at low-water, and then can be readily burnt up; and contractors have engaged to remove it at a cost of L1000. There is a difference of opinion as to the probability of this being effected, but I think that so soon as the country about and above Dallas

shall have become developed, it will demand the outlay of so inconsiderable a sum of money.

When these various improvements are effected, the Red River will be navigated throughout nearly every month of the year, up to 97° long., and the Sabine and Trinity Rivers, during eight months of the year, to 32°, 40′ lat., and I am of opinion that settlers will do well to locate themselves near to these points, under this impression. But there will still be a strip of country of about 90 miles in width, and 160 miles in length, through which no navigable river runs, yet it has a navigable river along the whole of its northern boundary; two navigable points in the southern boundary, and two projecting into its eastern extremity. Thus no point can be far removed from navigation of some kind.

Railroads. No railroads exist in N.E. Texas. Two are proposed, and their formation is looked forwards to with intense interest. The one from Pinehill, on Upper Red River, to Galveston, was projected by a company of gentlemen at Galveston, having Colonel Allen at their head. The project was received with great favour, and it is said that the landowners have offered to donate about one million acres of land, to pay for the construction of the railroad. At this moment the inhabitants of N.E. Texas are ignorant of the real intention of the projectors, and it is feared that they, having made a profitable sale of lands at the proposed terminus at Galveston, are not now stimulated by self-interest, and therefore are grown careless as to the result of their scheme. We can testify to the ardent desire of the people amongst whom we have travelled to see such a work undertaken, and a quantity of land amply sufficient to pay all the expenses would be given to any Company who would in good faith undertake it.

The Great Pacific railroad now absorbs public attention. From the Hon. Judge Mills, and many other gentlemen, we learnt that the Texan legislature intend at their next session to make a proposition to Congress so advantageous to the undertaking that they are convinced that this railroad will traverse the northern portion of Texas. It has been already stated that Congress does not own the public lands in Texas. The Government of Texas at the annexation undertook the responsibility of paying the public debt, and therefore retained the public lands. In the other states, the public lands became the property of the Federal Government, and these have been so far sold or appropriated for specific purposes, that neither the Federal nor the States' Government possess lands in sufficient quantity to promote the formation of this great undertaking. The Government of Texas still holds 180 millions of acres of these public lands, and it is to be proposed to give such a quantity of them to the Federal Government as may pay for the construction of the railroad through the whole State, a distance of about 700 miles. The railroad would then commence at Memphis, on the Mississippi, and proceed to Little Rock in Arkansas; then enter Texas, and run along the elevated ridge upon which Clarkesville, Paris, and Bonham, are situated, and afterwards take a south-westerly course to the Paso del Norte.

Many other reasons are offered why this railroad should pass through Texas. It is the shortest route. It would never be impeded by snow; whilst the opposition route would be impassable during several months of the year. It would develope a most fertile district, instead of passing over sterile rocks; and it would protect the Mexicans from the incursions of Indians, by causing

the country to be inhabitated by white men. From these and many other reasons; it is believed that this route is the best already proposed; but to my mind it is doubtful if they have sufficient interest in Congress to secure its adoption. The leading men of Texas entertain high hopes regarding it; and the representatives of various parts of Texas travelled with us to Memphis, where a Convention of the Southern States had been called for July 4th, for the purpose of deciding upon a general plan of procedure. We have since learnt that this Convention was postponed on account of the prevalence of the Cholera.

We cannot be surprised at the great exertions made, and the intense anxiety felt by the Texans in this undertaking, when we consider the following matters.

Firstly. They have probably the finest agricultural and manufacturing country in the world, only requiring railroads to attract settlers with capital and enterprise, in order to develope it; and whenever this is effected, its size and natural advantages will secure to Texas the preponderating influence in the States.

Secondly. All parties, whether in Texas, or the sister States, agree that the country offers unparalleled facilities for the construction of railroads. No railroad would probably cost more than L1000 per mile. The surface is somewhat level with the soil, resting upon a deep basis of clay. It is probably that the turf would not require to be broken in many places. The embankments would be made universally from side-cuttings and spoil-banks would create neither inconvenience nor expense. It would be difficult to obtain ballast; but this article is not generally used in the States. Timber is abundant, and without cost. The iron required is simply a ¾ inch bar, raised upon the longitudinal sleeper by a layer of wood 1½ inch thick, and fastened to the sleeper by small pins. The rivers are not of great width, and no expensive bridges nor tunnels would require construction.

The proposed line for the Great Pacific railway, runs from east to west, across the ridges of a level elevated line of land, whence the head waters of many rivers arise, and would therefore avoid the main trunks. The railroad to Galveston would run from north to south, on a gentle declivity betwixt the great undulations of the land, and would cross one or two large rivers only.

Thirdly. The wheat is ripe on the first of May, and the cattle are fit for the New Orleans market in March, so that cattle, wheat, and flour, could reach the New Orleans market two or three months earlier than the produce of the Western states. From this fact alone, Texas could control the New Orleans trade.

Fourthly. Louisiana, and the Mississippi Valley in general, do not raise grain and stock, and they are at present supplied with these articles from Ohio and the Western States. Texas being much nearer to these parts ought to supply them with these articles, which she can raise in quantity and quality unsurpassed by any other State. No less a quantity of flour than 40,000 barrels had been conveyed up the Red River during that part of the season which had preceded our arrival there. The cost of carriage of this flour from Ohio to Shreveport is 4s per barrel, the whole of which ought to be obtained by the Texan farmer. This is the natural home-market for the produce of the northern prairies.

Fifthly. Nearly all the land in N.E. Texas, has been located on speculation, and it would repay the speculator to give half of his lands for the construction of a

railroad. Thus a mass of men of intelligence and property find it to be their interest to give large tracts of land to whoever will undertake such a work.

Should this Great Pacific Railroad not be secured to Texas, it is evident that one must be constructed to traverse the interior part of the northern prairies, and directly connect them with Lower Red River. This should commence at, or near to, Bonham, and run through Paris, Clarkesville, and Boston, to a point on Red River above the raft. If this were completed, others would join it, connecting it with the heads of navigation of the Trinity and Sabine Rivers; and thus afford abundant internal communication to this fertile district. The settlers, as we are informed, are quite willing to give a sufficient quantity of land to pay for the construction of a railroad from Bonham to Red River to any body of men who would undertake it. I think this a most important subject for the consideration of our proposed Colony, for the northern ridge appears to me to be most suitable to our purpose, provided a railroad would be there constructed within a few years. It is probable that contractors could be found who would each undertake the formation of a small portion of the line, to be paid for in land, and there is no doubt of the readiness of the donors to convey their donated lands at certain stages of the work, so that the contractor having found money for the construction of half of his contract might sell a part of his lands in order to pay for its completion. When completed, the railroad would be the property of the company, who would receive all profits made by it.

This is also important when viewed in connection with the Red River improvements. The port established at the termination of the railroad on the Red River would become the port for N.E. Texas and Southwestern Arkansas; and in it our commercial friends would find a suitable location. Should such a work be undertaken, all the valuable building lands on which the city would be placed, and the best commercial positions would be at the disposal of the Colony. The State Engineer of Louisiana stated that he would join such a colony, and take a share in such an undertaking.

Productions

Cotton. The best cotton produced in N.E. Texas grows in Cass, Harrison, and Bowie Counties, and on the second bottoms of all the counties bordering on Upper Red River. The Cotton thus produced ranks in the New Orleans market as "Red River" cotton, and is a fine and long staple. That produced in Titus, Hopkins, Lamar, and Fannin Counties, is a shade inferior in quality, and consequently in price. The woodland district on our southern route is said to produce it of fine quality.

In quantity it depends upon the nature of the soil, and the amount of attention paid to the cultivation. Thus, on the rich lands of the Mississippi one-and-a-half to two bales of 500 lbs. each per acre is not unusual, whilst in Alabama the yield does not exceed 250 lbs per acre. As a rule we found the larger plantations better cultivated than the small ones, and therefore the former raised a better crop. In N.E. Texas the average yield is somewhat under one bale, or 500 lbs. per acre; for although in Harrison and Bowie Counties they frequently obtain one-and-a-half bale, in Hopkins County it does not exceed 350 lbs. One bale per acre is the usual return from the black sandy soil.

In computing the quantity of cotton to be raised by each hand, it is customary to include his other labour. Thus on the Red River and the Mississippi, each hand is expected to cultivate eight acres of cotton lands, and ten or twelve acres of corn, besides raising all vegetables required for the family. Mr. Thomas Goldon, residing four miles from Shreeveport [sic], once obtained twenty-one bales to the hand.

In the few instances in which we found persons refusing to employ slave-labour, they stated that the yield was greater with white than slave-labour. The slave-holder usually plants eleven to twelve acres of cotton per hand, depending upon the assistance of the children and the aged during the picking season.

The price varies much. During the past season it has been very low, and the Red River planters have not cleared more than 6½ cents per lb., and those residing in the interior, as in Titus, Hopkins, and Lamar counties 4½ cents.

Corn. The corn is of fine quality, and is produced in every county; but the best crops were noticed by us in Lamar County, and in some portions of the woodland districts on our Southern Route.

The quantity per acre varies much with the nature of the soil, but far more with the amount of attention paid to its cultivation. The major part of the settlers emigrated to Texas without capital, and from countries where it was necessary to labour hard to procure food; when suddenly finding themselves surrounded by an abundant supply of game and delicious wild fruit, and occupying land which will yield a good harvest almost without cultivation, they acquired lazy habits, and are content with the food which nature alone provides. Good farmers are scarce, and labourers not plentiful; and thus it is that the crops of corn vary much, and are in general lighter than in other districts. In general, the yield varies from twenty-five to fifty bushels per acre; but it is universally acknowledged that more abundant crops would result from the employment of a proper quantity of labour.

The supply is not by any means equal to the demand, so that the price is far higher than in any other State in the Union. In no instance did we find it selling for less than 75 cents per bushel, and in Hopkins county the settlers demanded $1½, and even $2 per bushel. The price this year is unusually high, in consequence of their having experienced an unfavourable season last year, and also from the great influx of emigrants; and it is probable that the unseasonable frost which destroyed the crops in all the western and southern states at the beginning of this year will sustain the present prices during another year. The usual price throughout the country is $½ per bushel, whilst in Ohio it is 10 cents to 20 cents under similar circumstances.

The leaves are pulled in August and September and used as fodder, the which our horses preferred to any other food. The settlers make them into bundles weighing 2 lbs. or 3 lbs. each, and keep them in small stacks, or in a loft. This is selling for the enormous sum of $2 per 100 lbs., because the settlers have been too indolent to gather it in sufficient quantity.

Wheat. This grain is not extensively cultivated on the sandy soils, since the crop is small, and the cotton planter prefers to give his attention to the one product exclusively. The wheat district is on the prairies of Hopkins county,

where the soil is close, but more particularly on the black limy soil of the prairies in Lamar, Fannin, Collins, Grayson, Cooke, and Dallas counties. They lack fine seed, and therefore the grain is small, but it weighs well, and is converted into excellent flour; and I saw some weighed in Lamar county, of 62 lbs. dirty and 67 lbs. clean, to the bushel. The half-bushel is circular, of 12⅝ in. by 8⅝ in. The Indiana half-bushel contains 1075½ sq. in. Many millers reported that the average weight is 62 lbs., but we were on many occasions informed by men of undoubted veracity, that 70 and 72 lbs. to the bushel is not an uncommon weight. Judge Thomas sowed 19 quarts of wheat, and obtained 25¼ bushels of 71 and 73 lbs. We were unable to procure fair samples of wheat, since the stock of old wheat was exhausted and the new had not been gathered.

They sow one bushel per acre, and with most imperfect cultivation it yields fifteen to thirty bushels. The unanimous opinion of the inhabitants of that part of Texas and of the neighbouring States, proves that this elevated prairie land cannot be surpassed as a wheat district. Now, that labour is not plentiful, it does not pay them to obtain large crops at the expense of much cultivation. The price universally is $1 per bushel; full one-half dearer than in other States.

Oats grow well in every county, but we saw but few crops and those looked healthy, but not very fine. Indian corn as an article of food for horses, render oats of less value in the estimation of the settlers, than with us. The seed is inferior. The settlers believe that oats will do well with them.

Rye is said to grow well, but we did not see any.

Grass. All the varieties of grass seen by us, are indigenous, and no attention has hitherto been given to its improvement. It grows most luxuriantly, with a tolerably close bottom, and is eagerly eaten by all kinds of stock.

The Wire-grass, almost exclusively, grows upon the prairies of Hopkins county. It is a narrow leaf growing three or four feet in height, and the world cannot show cattle in finer condition than those roaming uncared-for over these splendid prairies. Cows of 600 lbs. weight, and steers of 1,000 lbs., are met with everywhere, and steers of two years old, universally weigh 450 to 550 lbs. No difference of opinion exists amongst the settlers of this, and adjoining counties, as to the fact of this being the best stock-raising county during the summer months. In July, the settlers burn up the old and drying grass, after which, young and tender shoots spring up, upon which the sheep and cattle feed in the subsequent months. In the winter, the cattle retire to the river bottoms and seek the "hog-wallow", places on the prairies where grass continues green and nutritious during those months. During the past winter the cattle suffered severely, from its unexampled severity; and the loss then sustained by the settlers will probably induce them to keep a small stock of fodder, to meet such an emergency.

This is the ordinary variety of grass found upon the woodland, and being thin in that position, the cattle are small and not in good condition.

The Calamus grass alone, or mixed with the wire, and other natural grasses, covers the prairies of the black soil where vegetation grows with a luxuriance to which northern counties offer no parallel. These prairies extend for hundreds of miles, constituting a Goshen for the settler; and since they are too extensive

to admit of being partitioned by fences, they are open to the herds of any inhabitant. When we encamped upon these prairies the horses preferred the calamus grass, and on riding through it we could not restrain them from eating it. It is said to live somewhat longer in the autumn than the wire grass, and therefore is better than the wire grass for winter food. The settlers burn this grass also in order to obtain the aftermath.

The Mezquite is acknowledged to be the finest of these natural grasses by all persons, except those living on the wire grass. It remains edible during the winter, and consequently the cattle feeding on it are in better condition in the spring than those on the wire and calamus grass prairies. It abounds upon the fertile plains of the Colorado and the Brazos, and the magnificent prairies of the far west. It does not grow on any part examined by us, and consequently, I have not seen it. It is probable that it might be imported to these parts and grown with an advantage equal to that of the west; but so long as the northeastern prairies remain undivided, and the amount of the stock is far less than the land can support, it would be unwise to spend money on improving the grasses.

Vines. Several varieties are indigenous to the country, and two came under our notice. The one runs up the trunks and twines amongst the foliage, covering the tops of trees 100 feet high with grapes of great size and sweetness. We had no opportunity of tasting this variety. The other grows on small bushes, two feet in height, lying upon the ground, or supporting themselves by entwining their tendrils around the branches of shrubs. Upon each of these little bushes we counted twenty or twenty-five bunches. The grape was unripe, and therefore sour, but we were informed that they become large and sweet, and that the settlers gather them by waggon loads for domestic purposes. Their number appears to be almost infinite upon the sandy woodland. The grape has not been cultivated in north-east Texas, but it is certain that the cultivation of it would be at least as profitable as it is upon the hills at Cincinnatti, where 400 gallons of wine are produced from the acre, and sold at $1¼ per gallon. The cultivation of the grape for conversion into light wine would be of advantage to the country by enticing the settlers from whiskey drinking; and it is probable that the home consumption would be considerable. It is believed that no country surpasses Texas in the growth of the grape.

Tobacco. This production is not cultivated in N.E. Texas as an article of exportation; but for home consumption it sells at 1s. per lb. I saw it growing most luxuriantly in Lamar County, and nearly every farmer grows it for his own use. The Texan tobacco produces fine flavoured cigars and smoking tobacco; but the ignorance of the farmers as to the mode of curing the leaf prevents them from converting it into manufactured tobacco. This fact is well known in the States, and I heard it mentioned by a planter of Tennessee, when travelling down the Mississippi. The black soil appears to be most suited to its growth, and might be most profitably employed in its production. It is well known to be a product which rapidly impoverishes the land, and in Texas this is obviated by sowing the seed on wood ashes in the wood, whence after a few weeks the plant is removed to cultivated land. We are informed that the Germans settled on the Colorado carry on a most profitable trade in the growth of tobacco and the manufacture of cigars.

Flax grows readily, but I did not see it growing.

Wool. Sheep are as yet scarce in the country. The largest flocks seen by us were on the prairies of Hopkins and Lamar Counties. They are of the long-legged Mexican breed, and in excellent condition. They are shorn twice a year, and the fleece weighing about 3½ lbs., and sells as ls. to ls. 6 d. per lb. The prairies being elevated and dry and the grass excellent, this part of Texas is particularly adapted to sheep grazing. The rams are small and ill-bred. The sheep are said to yean twice a year, but since the rams run with the flock at all times, it is nearer to the truth to say that there is scarcely a fixed yeaning season, and that they yean much more frequently than in northern climates. On our journey we saw many lambs but recently yeaned, whilst others were nearly as large as the mothers. Mutton is not generally used as an article of food from the desire of the inhabitants to increase this kind of stock.

Cattle. In no state have we found finer cattle than in Texas. In the regions bordering on the Red River and in the woodland in general, the breed is small; but on the prairies the cattle are exceedingly large, and always in prime condition. The Durham breed has been introduced, and I think the stock on the prairies of Texas is quite equal to the common stock of this country. Their steers are much superior to ours. Cows usually have a calf at two years old, and never pass a year without an additional one. They are taught to come twice a day to the house, when the farmer takes as much milk as he requires, leaving the remainder to the use of the calf, which always runs with the mother. This imperfect mode of milking is injurious to the cow; and from this cause alone they yield a less quantity of milk than those of our country. An ordinary cow and calf, at two years old and upwards, are worth $10, and meet with very ready sale at home. Vast herds of steers are driven yearly to the southern market, whilst others are broken to the collar and sold in the country. Although the quantity of cattle is somewhat considerable, we found many large prairies but just dotted with them, and many others entirely destitute of them. Herds of millions of cattle are still required, in order to use the abundance of food which nature has provided.

Horses. The horses are of a superior quality, in every State through which we have travelled; much more so than the mass of horses in our country. The improved breeds have been largely imported, and the horse being well fed and lightly worked, the breed continues to improve. They are of good size and of light build, and by training become very fast walkers. The only improvement which has occurred to me would be in the importation of our fast-walking fine dray horses, which seem to be very suitable for the hauling of goods over bad roads; but it is probable that if our breed were carried thither, it would speedily become lighter, and more like the ordinary horse of the country. Many of the drivers have found that a team of mules is more profitable than one of oxen, since they will travel somewhat faster, and may be fed with corn and tied to the waggons at night, whilst the oxen feed in the woods, and wander away. The rule is to attach six mules to a waggon, carrying 3,000 lbs.; a weight sufficiently great, considering the small size of the mules, their bad harnessing, and the inequality of the roads. Small teams of our well-bred horses would upset the present system of hauling, and, at the present rate of carriage, would bring great returns to the proprietors.

Mules are held in great esteem in all the Southern States, being more patient,

steady, and enduring in their labour than horses. Much care has been bestowed upon the improvement of this stock, and a fine race, fifteen and-a-half hands high, are commonly employed. The settlers have introduced the Spanish dark-coloured jack, worth in Texas $500 to $1,000; and also a large-sized light-coloured jack, whose breed I could not learn. With these they cross their largest mares; producing a valuable progeny, which is sold for one-half more than horses. The breeding of horses and mules is universal on the prairies; but its extent is at present very limited.

Pigs are very numerous, and find their food almost exclusively in the woods and river bottoms. The breed of those in Titus and Cass Counties, and other woodland districts, is very inferior, and is correctly denominated "razor backed." Upon the prairies, where food is more plentiful, the breed is better, bearing some resemblance to the Berkshire breed, which has been introduced amongst them. They are small and short legged, and very fat, affording excellent pork and bacon to the settler, without his having expended a penny upon them. The taste of this bacon is very different to that of our English bacon, and was not very pleasant to our uninitiated tastes. The cotton planters feed pigs on the rotten cotton seed, and the chief source of profit in the distillation of whiskey is the pig feeding. Artichokes are cultivated on dry lands, supplies with plenty of water, for the purpose of feeding without permitting them to run into the woods. One acre of this article is said to feed about one hundred pigs; and the artichokes reproduce themselves yearly. The rearing of hogs is important to the settlers who eat their flesh more constantly than any other kind of food.

Salted meats will be a profitable article of exportation when the internal communication of the country is improved, and the supply of cattle exceeds the daily demand. The natural market for it is on the cotton lands of Texas and Louisiana.

Skins and Peltries are not important articles of commerce at present, since the cattle are usually slaughtered out of the country; the sheep are but very rarely killed; the buffalo is driven further west; and therefore deer and bear skins, with a few ox skins, are the only kinds exported. There is a ready sale for them in New Orleans; and when the cattle are killed and salted in the country, this branch of commerce will become important. Oak bark, of good quality, is abundant in the country, the which has already induced many settlers to build tan yards, which are very profitable.

Honey and Wax are collected in immense quantities, and are largely exported. We found virgin honey on every table, and it supplies the place of sugar in the food of the poorer settlers. The inhabitants keep large quantities of bee hives made out of hollow trees. At the large stores, wax, honey, and peltries are recognized articles of barter. N.E. Texas is a delicious garden, well adapted for the production of honey; and when labour becomes plentiful, the production of honey and wax will be profitable. The honey-bee is larger than ours, and their stores are proportionally large. At every stop we found trees cut for the purpose of finding honey.

Game, of every variety, is in countless numbers over the country. Deer, in herds, occupy every wood, and at dawn of day and at night, may be seen brows-

ing on the open prairie. Their number is much diminished, but even now the huntsman needs never to return without his game. Wild turkeys weighing 30 lbs., frequently crossed our path. Ducks and geese are said to be innumerable. Partridges exist everywhere, and were constantly running in front of our horses. The prairie hen is very abundant, and is about the size of a common fowl, but much more delicious. Woodcocks, snipes, and every other known variety of game are met with on all hands. Squirrels are very numerous, and are accounted a great luxury, and to my untutored taste the flesh is very rich. I shot six of these creatures in a very short time, and the large fox-tail squirrel, the grey and the black squirrel are equally prized. Game has long ceased to be profitable to the settler, since more useful occupations than hunting have presented themselves; and it is still too abundant to be valued as a luxury.

Figs grow luxuriantly, but are not much cultivated at present.

Peaches are grown by every settler for the purpose of making dried fruits, or for feeding swine. In Ohio a farmer has planted 30,000 peach trees for the latter purpose.

Apples will grow readily. We saw them in Cass, Dallas, and Harrison counties. The early kinds are preferred, since the later varieties are liable to fall before they become ripe.

Vegetables. We saw every variety known to the English gardener growing luxuriantly. Irish and sweet potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, peas, beans, rhubarb, beet-root, lettuce, celery parsnips, carrot, turnips, etc. There is not a month in the year in which the settler has not fruits and garden vegetables.

The several varieties of the Mulberry grow universally, and the settlers say that the silkworm thrives well. The climate of Texas resembles that of Italy, and it is possible that the silkworm may be reared to great advantage.

The Olive Tree has not been imported, but it would certainly succeed.

We saw the Castor oil plant and the Sarsaparilla Plant growing luxuriantly.

The following list contains the names of those productions which would be the most remunerative to a colony of Englishmen:

1. Wheat and every known variety of grain, large and small. The usual return from an acre of corn is $20. One man and horse will cultivate thirty acres, besides attending to other duties, inducing a return of $600 per year for each hand.

2. Vines, from which they manufacture wines, brandies, and dried fruits.

3. Figs, peaches, apples, and other dried fruit.

4. Tobacco.

5. Breeding every kind of stock, especially the pure breeds of cattle, sheep, hogs and hounds; and also horses and mules.

6. Cattle feeding.

7. Wool growing.

8. Cotton, silk, and flax. One bale of cotton of 500 lbs. per acre, at 5 cents

per lb. net—$25. One hand will raise eight bales at $25 per bale or $200; and twelve acres of corn at $20 per acre, or $240-$440, per year, exclusive of other sources of profit. Thus a settler, with two tolerably grown sons and a little capital, may clear $1,200 per year, from the production of corn and cotton only, exclusive of his income from stock-raising and feeding, and he will enjoy a thousand comforts and luxuries, and work but very moderately.

As it regards the production of cotton by white labour, we found it to be admitted almost everywhere that the white man can sustain at least as much exertion as the black man; but it is also admitted that it is more agreeable to the white man not to work at all. We saw most of the planters in Texas labouring in the field, and bringing up their sons to work in like manner.

The least laborous mode of farming is that of stock raising and feeding.

Tobacco planting requires but little attention.

The vine is readily cultivated.

Cotton requires for its cultivation quite as much labour as that of any other production.

The small grains require less attention than corn, since the latter should be ploughed several times during the growth of the crop.

EAST TEXAS

C. K. CHAMBERLAIN

Loy J. Gilbert, president of the Smith County Historical Society and Survey Committee, reports the following accomplishments of his organization for the past twelve months:

A marker was placed in the Harris Creek Cemetery marking the burial place of Nicholos Wren, noted soldier and scout for the Army of the Republic of Texas.

Restored the curbing and cover, with proper markings, for the public well at the Starrville Townsite. Starrville was once the outstanding town and commercial center in Smith County.

The semi-annual publication of the *Chronicle* was continued. The fall and spring issues of the *Chronicle* for 1967-68, as in the past, contains interesting and informative facts concerning early Tyler and Smith County.

The Smith County Historical Society has held monthly meetings for the past year. The program for each meeting has centered on the history of the area around Tyler.

The Polk County Museum is on its way to becoming one of the better small museums in the state. There are some very definite needs such as a table, either wood-top or marble-top, that was used around the turn of the century. The museum is also attempting to find a kerosene lamp, not just a plain one, but a lamp that would have been in a lovely parlor around 1900. The museum could also use a what-not shelf. The Museum Committee is asking the people of Polk County to look in their attics for possible museum pieces.

Several members of the Survey Committee have recently given a program for The Professional Womens Club, in which the needs and hopes of the museum and the Survey Committee were stressed. The Polk County Museum Committee feels itself fortunate in that it has enjoyed the services of Miss Diana Files, Consultant for the State Survey Committee. Miss Files spent two days in Livingston, and in her opinion the museum has some excellent exhibits.

The Shelby County Historical Society publishes a newsletter each month and it is mailed to some 300 individuals. The newsletter for October 1968, among other stories, told of some of the problems of deciding on the location of the county seat. Both Center and Shelbyville wanted the courthouse and Shelbyville had an advantage in that the courthouse records were in a log building in that town; a building that was called the courthouse. The advantage that Center had was that the State Legislature had declared Center the countyseat. The people of Center remembered the Regulator and Moderator feud of some forty years previous and did not want bloodshed. R. L. Parker and Sam Weaver made careful plans to move the records. They obtained an ox wagon and with the assistance of several faithful Negroes, left Center about dark one evening in August 1866. They were careful to select a time that was in the dark-of-the-moon and arrived in Shelbyville, some seven miles away from Center, in the dead of the

night. They quietly broke into the courthouse and loaded the records in the wagon and were well on the way back to Center before anyone in Shelbyville realized they had lost the records. The county records were carefully concealed in a small wooden building now on the site of Shelby County Courthouse.

For some nineteen years the county used temporary buildings for the courthouse. In 1885, the present structure was constructed at a cost of $26,725.00. An Irishman by the name of J. J. E. Gibson was the contractor and the tall, many-spired building that he created looks more like a medieval castle that it does a courthouse. Many rather tough men were tried in Center and Gibson was thoughtful enough to construct an escape hatch for the judge. He did this by putting a small door and a narrow stairway directly behind the judge's bench so that when a trial was over, the judge might have an opportunity of being some distance away before the crowd would miss him. After the bad-men were disposed of, a panel was put across the little door and it has not been used for many years, and it may never have been used.

Shelby County Courthouse built in 1885.

Weldon Hart, head of the Texas Good Roads Association, and an authority on Texas Courthouses says that eleven Texas Courthouses now exist which were built in 1885 or earlier. Of these, however, nine have been extensively remodeled. The Shelby County Courthouse is among the oldest eleven courthouses in the state, and is among the five oldest courthouses in Texas in near original condition. The other four unremodeled courthouses are located in Lampasas, built in 1883; Albany, built in 1883; Weatherford, built in 1885; and Clarksville, built in 1885.

Shelby County Judge V. V. Pate has appointed the Shelby County Historical Committee which is in charge of the historical marking and preservation programs in the county. The committee will serve from 1969 to 1971. The chairman

of the committee is J. B. Sanders of Center. Other members are J. T. Schillings, Mrs. Pete Dellinger, Mrs. Rex Payne, Mrs. Ray Kimbro, Mrs. Kenneth Rosenberger and Marlon Eakin.

The Shelby County Historical Society has conducted a very successful memorial fund drive for its museum. Money and museum pieces have been received.

The Tyler County Historical Survey Committee meets the third Saturday morning each month in the Civic Room of the Allan Shivers Museum. One of the projects of the committee is to make tours of different areas of the county. The members making the tours carry sack-lunches and the lunches add to the enjoyment of the tours. Early in 1968, a tour was made that covered a portion of the Dogwood Trail, and where champion sized dogwood and magnolia trees are located. This tour was made before the annual Tyler County Dogwood Festival was held. Other tours were held in the county during the year in which surrounding towns were visited for the purpose of locating places of historical interest and in an effort to create interest in the county historical program.

The Fort Teran Marker has been moved to Fort Teran Park, and several state markers have been received, but due to bad weather only the Bethel Baptist Church dedication has been carried out. Markers are being planned for the law office of Stephen P. West, now the home of Mrs. Bunkie Ford, and for the Woodville Academy-College. The survey of the Woodville Magnolia Cemetery has been completed and the report is filed in the Allan Shivers Library. Census reports for Tyler County for 1850, 1860, and 1870 have been received by the library. The Committee is searching for historical documents and for old homes which would be worthy of markers.

Monthly news letters were sent to the membership during the last few months of 1968 which gave the progress the Committee was making and its plans. Membership in the historical society in 1968 increased fifty-one percent over 1967.

Two delegates, with their expenses paid, were sent by the committee to the state convention, and other members attended at their own expense.

Two Angelina County organizations have been merged to create one of the newest historical research groups in central East Texas. They are the Angelina County Historical Association and the Lufkin Genealogical Society. The merger, which was effected early in 1969, resulted in creation of the Lufkin Genealogical and Historical Society, which has a membership of almost fifty.

Dick Huber is president of the Society; Frank Sheffield, vice-president; Cassie Holmes, secretary; and Woody Gann, Treasurer.

The Society meets on the first Monday of each month at Home Savings and Loan Association Building in Lufkin.

The organization is currently planning a one-day genealogical workshop for March 29 in Lufkin. Sheffield is chairman of the project. Past workshops con-

ducted by the Genealogical Society have been among the best-attended and most successful in East Texas.

Members of the County Historical Survey Committee are Dr. Gail Medford, L. T. Jordan, Ina Mae Townsend, Mrs. E. W. Leach, Woody Gann, John Wilkins, Herman Brown, Bob Bowman and Howard Walker. Woody Gann is the chairman.

A state historical marker has been placed near the Southern Paper Mills plant which pioneered the production of newsprint from southern pine trees nearly twenty-nine years ago.

"We are very grateful for the marker and for the committees' interest in Southland's history," said Southland president R. W. Wortham, Jr.

Dr. Gail Medford, chairman of the county committee during 1968, said the marker and its location will appear in the next edition of the "Guide to Official Historical Markers" and in tourist guides and on Texas maps.

The inscription on the marker reads:

"Southland Paper Mills, Inc. First plant to turn southern pines into newsprint, the mill here revolutionized the paper industry in the southern United States."

"Camden Texas" a color movie telling the story of an East Texas lumber mill company town was shown on February 3, 1969, in the auditorium of Home Savings and Loan Building. The movie was sponsored by the Lufkin Genealogical and Historical Society.

The film was produced by James Bryan of Lufkin while a student at U.C.L.A. and was financed by a grant from the American Film Institute. Mrs. Bryan, the former Kathie James of Lufkin, was the sound technician for the movie. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bryan are former students of Stephen F. Austin State College.

The Marion County Historical Survey Committee, under the leadership of A. K. Payne, is planning for its major project this year, a marker for Robert Potter, first Secretary of the Navy for the Republic of Texas. He was given a large tract of land in the East end of Marion County for his services during the Texas Revolution. Each man who served Texas was given land. The site of Potter's home is on a hill known as Potter's Point, overlooking hauntingly beautiful Caddo Lake. There has been a great deal of interest in this site since the publication of the second edition of *Love Is a Wild Assault*.

Restoration of what is now part of the Jefferson Playhouse is in progress by the women of the Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club. The work is being done as a memorial to Mrs. Dan Lester, long a leader in the restoration movements in Jefferson and Texas.

The building on which the restoration activity has started was built originally as a family residence. In 1869 it was sold to the Sisters of Charity, who operated St. Mary's School and Hospital in the building. In 1873, The Sinai Hebrew Congregation of Beth-el purchased the property and built a synagogue. According to a newspaper account of August 15, 1879, "Reverend A. Subler, who has been

in charge of Temple Emanuel in Dallas, goes from that city to Jefferson, where there is a beautiful synagogue and a large, intelligent and wealthy Jewish congregation."

The Garden Club purchased the property in 1966, and intends to use the restored building as Pilgrimage Headquarters and as the start of a theater center for the area.

The Jefferson Historical Society and Museum, which originated as a small exhibit within the Carnegie Library, has in twenty years acquired a home that formerly served as a federal building and post office; tallied over 5,000 donations from interested persons throughout the Southwest; and gained recognition all over the country. A week-long open house ended January 31, 1969, and the museum boasts a membership of 350, almost half of whom live outside Jefferson.

The museum collection includes a fine arts gallery, Caddo Indian artifacts, an extensive gun display, many Civil War relics, original Sam Houston documents, and an early Texana exhibit featuring a country store, a blacksmith shop, and a loom and kitchen. Articles dating back to 1874 remind the visitor of Jefferson's role as one of the oldest towns in Texas—the site of the first commercial ice plant and home of the Kellyville plow.

Important among acquisitions of 1968 are two paintings from the Newhouse Galleries of New York: "Mrs. Graham Young and Child" by Sir Henry Raborn and "Portrait of Anne North" by John Berridge. "Daniel and the Lions' Den," a copy of a painting from the school of Tintoretto which hangs in the London Museum, is a fine addition and is the most recent gift on display.

The museum on Austin Street is open daily from 9:30 A.M. to 5 P.M. Its president is Mrs. Jack Bullard.

The Bowie County Historical Survey Committee has made the Distinguished Service Award for five straight years, every year it has been offered. The committee has also made the Quota Busters Club each year.

The committee has in 1968 received and dedicated a marker for the First Disciples of Christ Church established in Texas; a marker for the R. M. Hubbard home in New Boston; a marker for the Harrison Chapel Cemetery; and a marker for the largest osage orange tree in Texas, a tree which is 153 years old. This tree is at DeKalb.

Mrs. A. A. Forester and her committee are rendering a splendid service to Bowie County.

In 1968, the Hunt County Historical Survey Committee observed History Appreciation Week, the second week in April, which included April 11, the 122nd Anniversary of the creation of Hunt County. The Committee also issued a Guide to Historic Sites where Texas Historic Markers have been placed.

Markers were dedicated during the year at: (1) East Texas State University, (2) the grave of Colonel Ben D. Martin, early Greenville mayor, Civil War Captain and member of the Texas Constitutional Convention, (3) site in Camp-

bell of old Henry and Emerson College, (4) grave of John L. Southall, Greenville law officer killed in the line of duty, and (4) the Village of Hoover's Gin and the home of the Fourth Sunday Singing Society.

Markers on hand soon to be dedicated are: (1) The Old Colony Line Road that traversed the north line of Mercer's Colony, (2) the site of the birthplace of General Claire Chennault, leader of the famous Flying Tigers of China, which is in Commerce, Texas, (3) Historic Building Medallion for the Bourland-Stevens-Samuell House in Greenville, part of it built in the 1850's and the remainder in 1883. This building is closely related to the basic history of Greenville.

The Hunt County Historical Society under the leadership of Dr. W. E. Sawyer, president, heard the following speakers during the year: March 3, 1968, Dr. Gideon T. James, Assistant Professor of Earth Sciences at East Texas State University on "Prehistoric Hunt County"; June 2, 1968, Dr. E. B. Carne, Vice President of LTV Electrosystems, Hunt County's largest employer, related the history of the great plant at Majors Field in Greenville; Sept. 8, 1968, General Hal C. Horton, pioneer Greenville lawyer, merrily entertained the group with "Some Interesting Legal Cases" in Hunt County's history; Dec. 5, 1968, Dr. Ralph Goodwin of East Texas State University talked on Indians of the Southwest and "Righting a Century of Dishonor to the Redman." At the meeting on June 2, 1968, officers for the Society were re-elected for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1968, as follows: Dr. W. E. Sawyer, President; Dr. Fletcher Warren and General Hal C. Horton, vice-presidents; Mrs. Ed M. Jones, Secretary; Mrs. Norine P. Morris, Treasurer; W. Walworth Harrison, Curator and Correspondent.

Professor and Mrs. Reese Kennedy have remodeled a very interesting old house in Nacogdoches. Professor Kennedy teaches art at Stephen F. Austin State College and Mrs. Kennedy is also an artist. The front of the building is a half block off Main Street, and indirectly faces Church Street, and the back faces on Pilar Street.

The building was built in 1898 on a lot that E. A. Blount deeded to W. Y. Bailey and wife on February 16, 1898. Other owners of the property have been E. C. Branch, N. D. Naman, and S. B. Hayter. On February 19, 1942, S. B. Hayter and wife conveyed the property to a daughter and the property was purchased by the Kennedys in October 1967. The old building had been for sale for so long that the faded 'For Sale' sign could hardly be read, and according to the Kennedys, the only occupants of the top two floors were hordes of mud-daubers and spiders.

The building has been used for many purposes; a buggy shop, a cigar factory, a newspaper plant, a laundry, a florist shop, a music studio, and a print shop. The Baker Printing Company occupied the first floor for thirty-five years and moved from the building in 1967.

The Kennedys will use part of the first floor for a studio-workshop. The other part of the first floor will be part of an art gallery. The second floor also houses an art gallery, and the kitchen and dining room for the family. The third floor has been made into rooms for the family.

GALLERY 107
(When Purchased)

GALLERY 107
(As Building appears now)

Both the building as purchased and as it is today are taken from pen and ink drawing by Professor Kennedy.

The building, now known as Gallery 107, is one of the few art galleries in East Texas and appears to belong in New Orleans rather than Nacogdoches.

The old fashioned brick structure is somewhat of a split-level construction. The front entrance is from Church Street and is by a flight of stairs to the second floor. The third floor, because of the split-level construction at one place joins the second floor. As a newspaper reporter wrote, "except for the view it seems more like Fifth Avenue than an alley in East Texas."

When the building was opened many people, out of curiosity, visited the gallery to see what could be done with an old building.

The Kennedys with an abundance of imagination and what they say was a sparcity of money and know-how have made the old place into a comfortable home, an attractive art gallery, and a convenient studio-workshop.

The gallery is open to the public each afternoon except Monday.

The Annual Convention of the Texas Old Missions and Forts Restoration Association will be held Saturday, March 8, 1969, at Menard, Texas. A visit to Old Fort McKevitt will be a part of the day.

The Texas State Historical Association will hold its seventy-third meeting May 8-10 at the Driskill Hotel in Austin. This will probably be the last meeting in this historic building, as the hotel management has announced plans "to demolish the structure and put up a new one." With only a few exceptions, the Society has held its annual meetings in the Driskill.

BOOK REVIEWS

Colossal Hamilton of Texas. By John L. Waller. El Paso (Texas Western Press), 1968. pp. xii, 152. $5.00.

This book presents an adequate and long needed biography of Andrew Jackson Hamilton, who is remembered for the most part as having served as provisional governor of Texas during the period of presidential reconstruction in Texas. The author narrates the story of Hamilton from his arrival in Texas as a young lawyer from Alabama in 1846 to the time of his death at 60 in 1875. An imposing figure and eloquent speaker, he was to be a significant figure on the Texas political scene for many years. Always a leader, Hamilton was a Unionist in Congress when the Civil War began. His political sympathies were so unpopular in Texas that he fled for his life to Mexico after the state entered the war. Hamilton, however, left Mexican soil for Louisiana in 1862 after New Orleans fell into Union hands. While at New Orleans, Lincoln appointed him Brigadier General of Volunteers and Military Governor of Texas. These appointments proved to be empty honors, for he was an executive without a state and a general without a force. Yet Hamilton was not forgotten by President Andrew Johnson who appointed him provisional governor of Texas in June, 1865. At Austin Hamilton, acting in line with the President's plan of reconstruction, called a constitutional convention into session where the Confederate debt was repudiated and the secession ordinance was nullified. However, he was unable to obtain a ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment. Still the people adopted the constitution, choosing at the same election J. W. Throckmorton, a former Confederate officer to be governor of Texas.

Private life was not to hold Hamilton long. Less than two years later, he was appointed an assistant justice of the "Military Supreme Court" while Texas was a part of the Fifth Military District. In 1869, Conservative Republican Hamilton lost the race for the governor's office to E. J. Davis, a Radical Republican, in an election where irregularities in balloting were evident. Hamilton, in the months that followed, was convinced that the Davis administration was oppressive and he was quite vocal in expressing his bitterness toward it. Still Hamilton remained loyal to his party through the few remaining years of his life.

Colossal Hamilton of Texas contributes to the history of the period of reconstruction in Texas, and Waller uses his sources well. The book is designed by Carl Hertzog and is edited by S. D. Myres.

William Curtis Nunn
Texas Christian University

Gunsmoke in the Redlands. By Joe F. Combs. San Antonio (The Naylor Company), 1968. 122 pp. Illustrations. $5.95.

Joe F. Combs, the author of *Legends of the Pineys, Farm Corner,* and *Growing Pastures in the South,* is a prolific writer; and like many writers who have had the public ear for a long time, he has been known to bend it with his "good-old-days" moralizing and his generalizations on evolution. *Gunsmoke in the Redlands,* however, contains the best of his writing and research, and I strongly recommend it to those interested in East Texas history and the phenomenon of the blood feud.

The history of mankind is larded with misunderstandings that became grudges that became wars. The mean look and the bad word escalated to a nudge, then a shove, and finally men and nations reached for their clubs, pikes, or pistols and proceeded to enforce their animosities by bloodying the opposition. But one does not have to pluck a field to smell a flower, and a close view of a microcosm can be as revealing as a set of Cambridge histories. Joe Combs depicts this microcosm of military escalation in his study of San Augustine's Border-Wall feud, that erupted into open street warfare in 1900 and lasted till 1904.

As is the case with most wars, the feud's beginnings are but dimly remembered. The Walls and the Borders clashed as children, and their anger heated and hardened as they grew from fists to guns. The Populist victory of 1895 put Uncle Buck Wall's family and faction in power, with his son George as sheriff. Old line Confederates fell in with Crug Border, the Broocks family, and the Democratic opposition, and shades of the Civil War haunted the courthouse square.

Fort Sumpter came again when Sheriff Wall jailed Curg Border for disturbing the peace. Four days later, on April 21, 1900, Curg put a load of buckshot in George's back. In retaliation for George's murder, Eugene, his brother, shot Ben Broocks in the back on the following June 1.

George's brother-in-law and deputy, Noel Roberts, was appointed by the Populist commissioners as the next sheriff. On June 4, Noel, his brother Sidney and his uncle Felix were fired upon in the courthouse by Curg, Frank Sharp, and Lum Crouch. A short vicious battle left Sidney and Felix dead and Noel badly wounded. The sheriff was able to escape to Nacogdoches, where he recovered.

The Borden-Broocks faction was now in command and demanded the arrest of Eugene Wall for the murder of Ben Broocks. Uncle Buck had over two hundred men ready to fight for him, so the arrest was delayed until the following year when a Texas Ranger went to Wall's house, arrested him, and took him to Rusk for trial in June, 1901. To pay court costs, Eugene's brother Lopez began a cattle drive to the Nacogdoches market in June 9. On June 10 he was shot out of his saddle from ambush. The trial itself was a farce and Eugene was acquitted, but within the year, he was shot and killed from ambush. Uncle Buck took what was left of his family and moved to Oklahoma.

Curg Border, the main gun in the Wall opposition, rode high with the Walls out of his way and became the sheriff in 1903. His election was the turning point of the whole bloody episode. The majority of San Augustine's citizens were people of moderation who were distressed and frightened by the violence of the feud, but they were so upset by the election of Curg that they began to organize for action. On March 3, 1904, a court order replaced Sheriff Border with Sneed Noble, a neutral. Curg swore that he would kill Sheriff Noble, but he met his match in a main street showdown when Sneed and his brother met Curg, his gun-toting sister Cora, and his Negro gun, Arch Price. Sneed met the trio in the middle of the street, emptied Curg's saddle, and sent the other two flying.

This was the end of the shooting part of the war as far as the citizens were concerned and should have been the end of the book, but Combs had evidently been sitting on the stories of the Runnels and Truitt murders and the Conners-Lowe feud for so long that he felt it was time to hatch them. The three final

chapters break the unity of the book. I am sorry that he did not research the Conners story as well as he did the Wall feud and write a book about it. It is a tragedy in the most classical sense. And the Truitt story has a manhunt that lasted twenty-one years. It too is worth a book, and Combs should be the man to write it.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University

J. Frank Dobie: Bibliography. Compiled by Spruill Cook. Waco (The Texian Press), 1968. 64 pp. $5.00.

J. Frank Dobie began publishing in 1919 and produced books and articles with regularity until his death in 1964. He was a professional writer, and he got a lot of miles out of everything that he wrote. Some stories began as talks, became scholarly articles, were later published in newspapers and magazines, and finally came to rest (except for later revision and anthologizing) in one of his many books. Dobie's writings are widely distributed and scattered over nearly fifty years of print.

Frank Dobie's place in Southwestern literature is unquestioned and unrivaled, and students of the lore will be studying him and his subjects for years to come. Spruill Cook, a member of the faculty of Navarro College in Corsicana and a long-time Dobie scholar, has compiled a descriptive Dobie bibliography that will be of great assistance to these future folklorists, historians, and Dobie scholars.

Mr. Cook's bibliography lists the books, pamphlets, prefaces, introductions, and magazine articles, as well as a select group of secondary sources. It also lists the publications of the Texas Folklore Society, which survived through the vitality of Dobie; quotations from his dedications; and title pages from eight of his first editions. Cook's bibliography is an important contribution to Southwestern scholarship.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Stephen F. Austin State University

The Texas Diary, 1835-1838. By Mary Austin Holley. Austin (The University of Texas Press), 1965. 120 pp. Photographs. $7.50.

James Perry Bryan, a well-known Texas historian, edited and introduced this first publication of Mary Austin Holley's diary of her second and third visits to Texas. Although her travels were confined to the Coastal Plains near the mouth of the Brazos, her record of them is a valuable sequel to her book *Texas* which was published after her first visit in 1831. Both provide some of the first credible descriptions of Texas in this important period.

Mrs. Holley reveals herself as a versatile and intelligent woman, and her wit and sensitivity render the diary not unpleasant reading. However, its real value as seen by Mr. Bryan, ". . . lies in the glimpse it gives us of many of the prominent Texans of the colonial period and of the early Republic and in its intimate description of the means of transportation, living conditions, and political and social activities during the infancy of Texas—as well as its description of some of the principal communities then in existence in Texas." Reproductions of Mrs.

Holley's fifteen sketches of various homes and buildings of the area further enhance the book. Mr. Bryan's painstaking notes should not be overlooked in judging the value of this publication.

Martha P. Hoskins
Nacogdoches, Texas

"I'm Frank Hamer," "The Life of a Texas Peace Officer. By John H. Jenkins and H. Gordon Frost. Introduction by Colonel Homer Garrison. Austin (The Pemberton Press), 1968. $7.50.

John H. Jenkins and H. Gordon Frost have written the story of perhaps Texas' most colorful peace officer, Frank Hamer. Colonel Homer Garrison says in his introduction to this interesting book that Frank Hamer experienced a transition in law enforcement. As a young Texas ranger Hamer experienced frontier conditions and his transportation was by horseback. Before his death he, as the criminals he sought, traveled by automobile. The transition from the horseback trail-following officer to a "highly knowledgeable specialist—part detective, part scientist, and thoroughly modern lawman" was a long and difficult path.

Frank Hamer was born March 17, 1884, in western Texas. While he was still a child his family moved to a ranch in San Saba County where Frank grew up around his father's blacksmith shop. His first profession was that of cowboy, and while a young man he was tempted to become an outlaw.

Hamer was a lawman by nature. His very instinct was that of law enforcement. He detested civil or military officials who winked at the law. As a ranger he refused to obey an order to make a farce out of an arms embargo against Mexico. Later in prohibition days as a prohibition enforcement officer he refused to overlook violations of the liquor laws and helped send his superior to prison.

Hamer was noted for his honesty, his courage, and the fact that he made careful plans before making an arrest. In 1928 the Texas Banker's Association, a powerful organization in the state of Texas, became alarmed at the growing number of bank robberies and the failure of the courts to convict or punish the accused robbers. In an attempt to solve the problem the banker's organization published posters which read:

"REWARD"
FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR
DEAD BANK ROBBERS NOT A
CENT FOR LIVE ONES"

About a month later two officers killed two men who were apparently planning to rob a bank in Odessa. In a short time afterward two potential robbers were killed at Rankin, and there were killings in other Texas towns. The Texas Banker's Association was pleased and paid the awards in each instance. Frank Hamer, however, felt uneasy about the situation and confided his suspicions to Walter Prescott Webb. The circumstances involving the killings appeared peculiar to him, and he became convinced that the robberies and killings were framed. He attempted to get legal action against the men who were engineering the killings, but accomplished nothing. He then appealed to the banker's association but the association was adamant; and Hamer later gave his story to the

press. In this action he was opposing an organization that represented most of the wealth of Texas, but following his leadership, the public outcry finally became so great that the association modified the rewards according to Hamer's demands.

Hamer was known as a brilliant law enforcement officer before he accepted the task from Lee Simons, the general manager of the Texas Prison System, of tracking down Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker. Hamer spent 102 days on this case which came to an end on May 23, 1934, near Arcadia, Louisiana. It had been agreed among the six officers, four from Texas and two from Bienville Parish, Louisiana, that Barrow and Bonnie would be taken alive if possible. The trap worked perfectly; but when the order was given for Clyde and Bonnie to throw their hands up, instead they reached for their guns and when they did, the six officers shot as a unit. There was talk of merging the rangers with the highway patrol and Hamer's success in tracking down Barrow and Parker may have prevented the merger of the two agencies.

Hamer, a modest man who never sought publicity, refused many flattering offers for moving pictures, books and magazine rights to his story. When such a request was made, he always answered that after his death his family could do what they wished about a biography. Hamer was said to be as communicative as an oyster and the fact that he did not talk, and his sense of honor, prevented him from revealing how he obtained the information which enabled him to be a successful officer. This lack of information is a distinct loss to the science of law enforcement and it would also be interesting reading to the layman. Walter Prescott Webb "ranked Hamer with Jack Hayes and Ben McCulloch as one of the three most fearless in western history."

The authors often rely on clippings found in the Hamer family collection when the clipping would have lead to original sources which could have been used as references.

There are over one hundred pages of illustrations. The pictures would have been more interesting if more identification had been given. Often only Captain Hamer is identified.

C. K. Chamberlain
Stephen F. Austin State University

President Wilson Fights His War: World War I and the American Intervention. By Harvey A. DeWeerd. New York and London (The MacMillan Company) 1968. Pp. xxi, 457, maps, illustrations, and appendixes, $12.50.

In this excellent volume of "The Wars of the United States" series, Harvey A. DeWeerd provides a detailed, though compact, history of the First World War in its major aspects and places America's role in the conflict in perspective. As the author points out in his preface, "World War I was predominantly a European War," and the European nations were fully engaged for four years. The United States engaged in large-scale military operations for only a few months—at the termination of the struggle. Any effort to present the American war effort in a vacuum or to explain the European war "as a mere background" for America's Great Crusade inevitably results in distortion. It is DeWeerd's purpose to re-dress the imbalance.

Basing his study on a variety of materials: manuscripts, government documents, printed sources, secondary accounts, and personal memoirs, DeWeerd has presented a clear and readable story of the "Great War" from its origins to the armistice. Without bogging the reader down in unnecessary detail, the author describes the campaigns and major battles with verve and dash, providing simple maps to illustrate the action. In addition to the principal efforts on the Western front, DeWeerd also provides adequate accounts of the action on the Eastern front, the Gallipoli Campaign, and the War at Sea. As the war progresses, he also discusses and evaluates the plans and performance of the war leaders, both of the Central Powers and Allies. By 1917 both sides were seeking new weapons and techniques to end the trench warfare stalemate and regain a war of movement.

In discussing the American war effort, the author dismisses the mobilization on the home front in a few pages. This is a weakness, but attention is deliberately concentrated on the military and the fighting fronts. He points to the contributions of Secretary of War Newton D. Baker, whom he describes as "one of the greatest Secretaries of War in our history," and Chief-of-Staff Peyton C. March. These men were outstanding in their work to form, equip, and arm the A.E.F. Without their achievements, the American Army could hardly have arrived in Europe in time or in condition to have affected the outcome of the struggle. Wilson is described as an able war President who largely "evaded his duties as Commander-in-Chief." He delegated large powers to General John J. Pershing and Admiral William S. Sims. To Baker he largely gave a free hand. DeWeerd finds Pershing a "hard, taciturn, competent general," who efficiently prepared his troops for combat, and successfully resisted Allied proposals for the amalgamation of the American Army. Pershing's concept of the "expert stalking rifleman" contributed little to strategical or tactical ideas of the war, yet the A.E.F. essentially accomplished what he set out for it to do. Had the war gone on it would have played a leading role in the campaign of 1919.

This is an interesting book. For the general reader or the general student, Professor DeWeerd has written a well-planned study of the madness that we call World War I. In comparison with the efforts and sacrifices of the principal belligerants, the United States played a rather modest role in that struggle.

Robert S. Maxwell
Stephen F. Austin State University

Country Music, U.S.A. By Bill C. Malone. Austin (University of Texas Press), 1969. xii 422. Photographs, bibliography, index. $7.50.

Any area of scholarship would be proud of Bill Malone's publication, and it will take just this caliber of research to prize open the doors to the halls of academe wide enough for country-and-western music to get in. Folk music, with the help of such scholars as Francis Child and Cecil Sharp, has finally received academic blessing; and the best universities in the western world admit it as their legitimate own, but country and western still has a while to stand in the hall and wait.

Country Music, U.S.A., by Bill Malone, is the climax of a growing scholarly interest in this long neglected field of music. Besides numerous articles in music

magazines over the last five years c/w has been the subject of one issue of the *Journal of American Folklore* and of a popular publication by Robert Shelton, entitled *The Country Music Story*, but nothing equal to the scope and depth of Malone's work has yet appeared.

Country Music, U.S.A. is a chronological account of the evolution of a musical species within the rapidly changing environment of the last fifty years. Malone does not make his study under laboratory conditions or in a sociological vacuum. He recognizes that the music and the people who sing it are one unit, inseparable, and he analyzes its shifting shape as the study of people singing and making music out of their experiences.

Country-and-western music grew out of the folk songs of the rural South, out of the songs the settlers brought from the old country and the songs they made after they got here. They played for themselves and for the entertainment of their own kind. They played the fiddle, guitar, banjo, and mandolin, and they sang a high nasal harmony that they carried over from their gospel and Sacred Harp music. Although they sang about every part of their lives, most of their songs were mournful, sin conscious, and fatalistically sad.

Radio discovered that there was an audience for country music in the early 'twenties, and stations like WSB, Atlanta, and WBAP in Fort Worth began combing the woods for rural talent. The market that was created through radio paid off in 1923 when Fiddlin' Eck Robertson cut a record that was to open up that medium for the dissemination of country music. The term "hillbilly," which came to be applied to all kinds of country music, was taken from Al Hopkins' Hillbillies, who were recording country music in 1925. Then in the late 'twenties Jimmie Rodgers yodeled and recorded his way into the number-one singing position, which he still holds for many c/w fans.

The recording industry thrived in the late 'twenties and 'thirties and had a large field of talent to draw from. Jimmie Rodgers' commercial success inspired many country musicians to try their hands in the business world of radio and recordings. The Depression spread the country music of the South across the southwest to California and to wherever the Okies, Arkies, and Texans went looking for work. These years saw the advent of the "western" part of country and western as Gene Autry and his ilk sang their ways into Saturday matinees throughout the U.S.A. Bob Wills, his Texas Playboys, and western swing came in on the coat-tails of that movement.

World War II spread country and western all over the world. If a soldier had one small drop of country in him, the songs that complimented his nostalgia were country and western, and he sang them and spun them on juke boxes wherever he went.

Bill Monroe with Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs came on strong after the war, and the flying sound of Scruggs-style banjo set the style for later bluegrass bands. Elvis Presley began his career singing country and western, but cut off the main line under the influence of Negro "race" music. A romantic return to the past in the post-war forties also spawned Burl Ives and the folk music interest that is still with us in spite of the Kingston Trio.

Amplification and commercialization are the main changes that have come about since the war. The Nashville promoters realized that they were mining a mother lode and did their best to pander to every shift in the public's taste. Many c/w stars went right along with them, sprinkling pearls and sequins on their costumes, wiring their strings for multi-sound, and adding drums and electric organs to get with the rock-and-roll beat.

Country-pop and the Nashville sound can be bad, and it is probably a new musical genre that is not country at all, but country-and-western (Old Style) is saved by the real stars of the field, by such singers as Hank Williams, Webb Pierce, Hank Snow, Ray Price, and Charlie Pride. These are some of the ones who have kept the old sound and the realism—or naturalism—of country and western music. The best of c/w is close to life and represents unsophisticated man involved in a hard-case existence on an elemental level. The heroes are the hard drinkers, fighters, and lovers whose lives' intensity carried them into turbulent and tragic experiences. It speaks to an adult world.

It is refreshing to read folk music scholarship written by a man who has something to offer in addition to the academic knowledge. Bill Malone was born into an East Texas tenant-farm-family that was part of the folk music culture. His mother was a singer in the Pentacostal gospel tradition, both his older brothers played guitars, his father was a square-dance caller, and he is a guitar picker and country singer. He was one of the lucky few who was able to write his doctoral dissertation about something in which he was genuinely interested and well prepared for, and this was one of the few dissertations worth publishing.

Francis Edward Abernethy
Department of English
Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, Texas 75961

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Ert J. Gum
Associate Professor of History
University of Nebraska
Omaha, Nebraska

B. J. Fett
Graduate Student
Stephen F. Austin State University
Nacogdoches, Texas

Irvin May
Instructor of History
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas

Terrell W. Conner, Jr.
President
East Texas Historical Association
Daingerfield, Texas

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